

# Vote for James Eterno



## for UFT President on the ICE - TJC Slate and Build a Movement to End School Closings

UFT President Michael Mulgrew encourages each targeted school to try to save itself, and to protest at the Jan. 26 meeting of the Public Education Panel (PEP). But the PEP is just a rubber stamp for Mayor Bloomberg. Mulgrew's strategy accepts that some schools must be closed "as a last resort," and accepts the PEP decisions as final. So his strategy is just too weak to protect UFT members, our students and communities, against school closings.

Teachers for a Just Contract (TJC) believes the UFT needs to build a UNITED citywide movement that targets the real power: the Mayor and the City Administration. At the December Delegate Assembly, along with many other grassroots organizations, TJC advocated a citywide march and rally at Tweed and City Hall demanding: End School Closings! Mulgrew and his Unity Caucus rejected this idea. TJC then joined other groups in endorsing and building the January 21 demonstration at the Mayor's residence.



James Eterno, Chapter Leader, Jamaica H.S., Queens, and the ICE - TJC Presidential Candidate

Mulgrew and his Unity Caucus will never mobilize the union into the fighting mode needed for us to end school closings and win a good contract. His cowardly and ill-conceived decision to be silent about Bloomberg's education policies during the mayoral race has left us in a helpless position. Mulgrew's latest move, to ask for a declaration of impasse in contract negotiations, sets us on a path that has been disastrous in the past. The 2005 contract was a result of an impasse declaration. It was the basis of today's ATR crisis, the loss of the right to grieve letters in the file, a longer school day and school year, and many other givebacks.

Now, TJC is fighting to keep the movement to end school closings alive beyond January 26, and to link it with our struggle for a good contract. The UFT needs new leadership in the March 2010 election. TJC has formed a united opposition slate with ICE (Independent Community of Educators) To help ICE - TJC win, contact us. Email us at JustContractUFT@aol.com. Leave a phone message at 212 831 3408. Or fill out the coupon below, and mail it to TJC, P.O.B. 545, New York, N.Y. 10028. For more information, visit our website: TeachersforaJustContract.org.

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