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Make Schools Rudy's Next Job

RUDY Giuliani, soon to be a multi-millionaire, doesn't need a job — he needs an assignment. And Mayor-elect Mike Bloomberg ought to tap him, along with former CUNY Chairman Herman Badillo as his appointees on the Board of Education.

The mission may seem impossible and their appointments improbable, but this city's million school kids need to be saved from the policies and practices of education as usual.

Both men would need to start right away; that means Bloomberg can't wait for the terms of Giuliani's two appointees on the Board of Ed, Ninfa Segarra, its prez and Irene Impellizzeri, its vice president, to end next June. If asked, Segarra and Impellizzeri would resign in a nanosecond: Both understand their influence and credibility cease at the moment the mayor asks for their resignations.



Their leaving now would give Bloomberg a head start by bringing fresh blood to the reform of our pathetically performing public schools.

Indeed, the need for a fresh start is exactly what Bloomberg signaled in his oh-so-private session last week with Schools Chancellor Harold Levy. Levy took the job as the teachers' pet, but even the teachers' union prez, Randi Weingarten, knows that Levy is in a job over his head. Weingarten has characterized the schools as in a "state of paralysis," something everyone else in the know, including parents and reformers, have known for some time. (Weingarten is on Bloomberg's transition team, as is Segarra.)

Not only don't the teachers have a contract but waste in the system has not been controlled — and the kids' academic performance is stagnant and deplorable. Neither Segarra nor Impellizzeri has done anything demonstrable to change those problems. Indeed, at a recent Manhattan Institute forum, Segarra exasperatingly whined the system is stubbornly resistant to accountability.



Giuliani: Head of the classes?

That's why we need leaders on the school board who don't take no for an answer.

That's Rudy and Herman! They know where the bodies are buried in the Board of Ed's labyrinth and know that zillions have been squandered at the Board of Ed. Rudy as mayor, and Herman as mayoral education advisor, have long been fed up with the Board of Ed gobbling up zillions with no results for our children's academic achievement.

Furious, too, are the parents who watched, along with the mayor and the rest of the city, as the defeatist Board of Ed members gave Levy a pass in his recent evaluation, thereby encouraging him to stay in the job.

Bloomberg should step in now to bring the school system to account. What better way than to place two skillful men — Rudy Giuliani and Herman Badillo — in meaningful posts to once again come to the aid of their city?

As a school-board member Giuliani can finish directly what he ran out of time to do indirectly — crush the Board of Ed bureaucracy. And Badillo, the former mayoral contender, borough president, congressman, and deputy mayor who as chair of CUNY insisted on and imposed higher standards for students and staff — with demonstrable, positive results — could work with Bloomberg in a governmental post he has not heretofore served.

Harold Levy has already shown he can't or won't do it. So let him step aside.

Have a brand new Board of Ed, driven by Rudy and Herman, pick the next schools boss.

Usher in an era of educational reform that would no doubt cut school delinquency as much as Rudy cut crime and Herman showed the way out of paternalism that had mired our colleges in mediocrity. This is the kind of out-of-the-box thinking candidate Mike Bloomberg promised; he must keep that promise, instantly, starting with the schools.

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