

The press picked up on the grade change story. I, as chapter leader, was quoted in the news stories, making me even more vulnerable.

In May, my UFT chapter took a vote of no-confidence against the administration. About 60 teachers and 30 students also staged a protest outside Kennedy HS in early June.

Anyone who was involved in that protest was retaliated against in one way or another.

In my case, on the last day of school, I received a letter notifying me that I was being excessed. I was one of 17 staffers in bilingual education who lost their positions at Kennedy in September. I believe that the administration got rid of all those bilingual and ESL instructors to justify getting rid of me. The school served more than 2,000 JFK students who needed our services. Their education was sacrificed because of our political action. Children who were mandated for bilingual education were told to go to school elsewhere or were left to sink or swim in English-only classes at Kennedy.

In September, I was falsely accused of sending student transcripts with their names on them to the press. I have been reassigned to a “rubber room” pending the outcome of the investigation.

In October, I received a revised annual performance rating. I was given a U for the 2004-2005 school year. I was stunned. I had never received a U rating before, even for an observation.

This January, I was brought up on 3020a charges for termination for insubordination and not following department policy.

Why is my teaching career in jeopardy? Simply for telling the truth and trying to protect the integrity of the educational system and the interests of students.

I urge you to pass the whistleblower legislation before you. Teachers like me desperately need its protection.