

No Confidence in Principal Mastriano

PS 166 Seeks Leadership Change

Dec. 15, 2022

The data presented here may come as a surprise to many parents. We understand that many of you were attracted to the school and may even be supportive toward the principal given the stellar test scores achieved in the past years. However:

- For several years there has been significant dissatisfaction with PS166 principal Debra Mastriano, both by staff and parents.
- There have been multiple attempts to bring attention to these issues, but these were often curbed by retaliation or fear of retaliation, and inaction by official channels.

On December 1st, 2022:

Staff and parents of PS166 vote NO CONFIDENCE in Principal Mastriano

0 UFT members voted confidence

28 UFT members voted no confidence

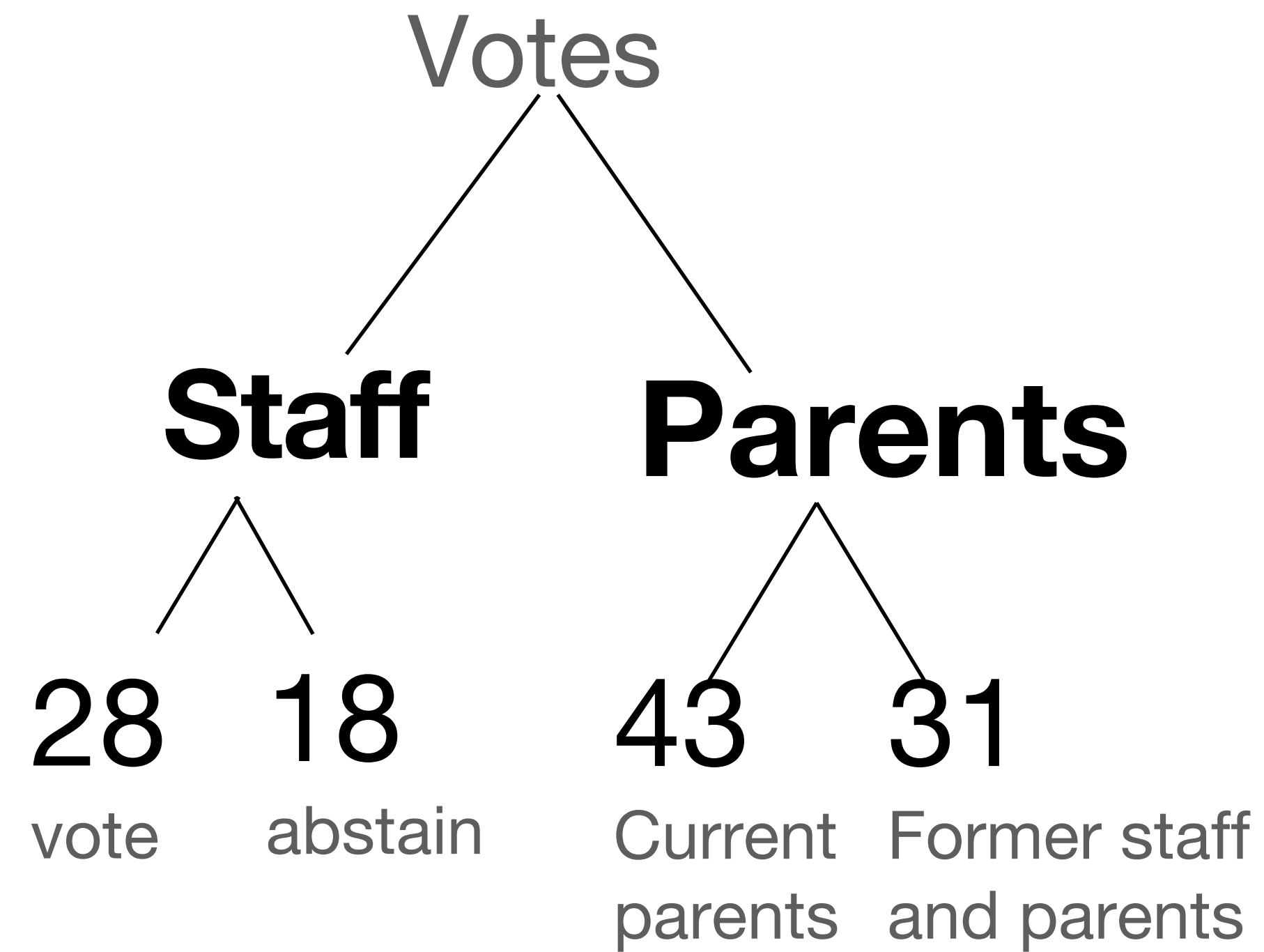
18 UFT members abstained (some for fear of retaliation)

43 current parents and 31 former parents and staff voted no confidence

(Not all parents were invited as current UFT members feel very vulnerable to retaliation and want to remain anonymous)

No Confidence:
102

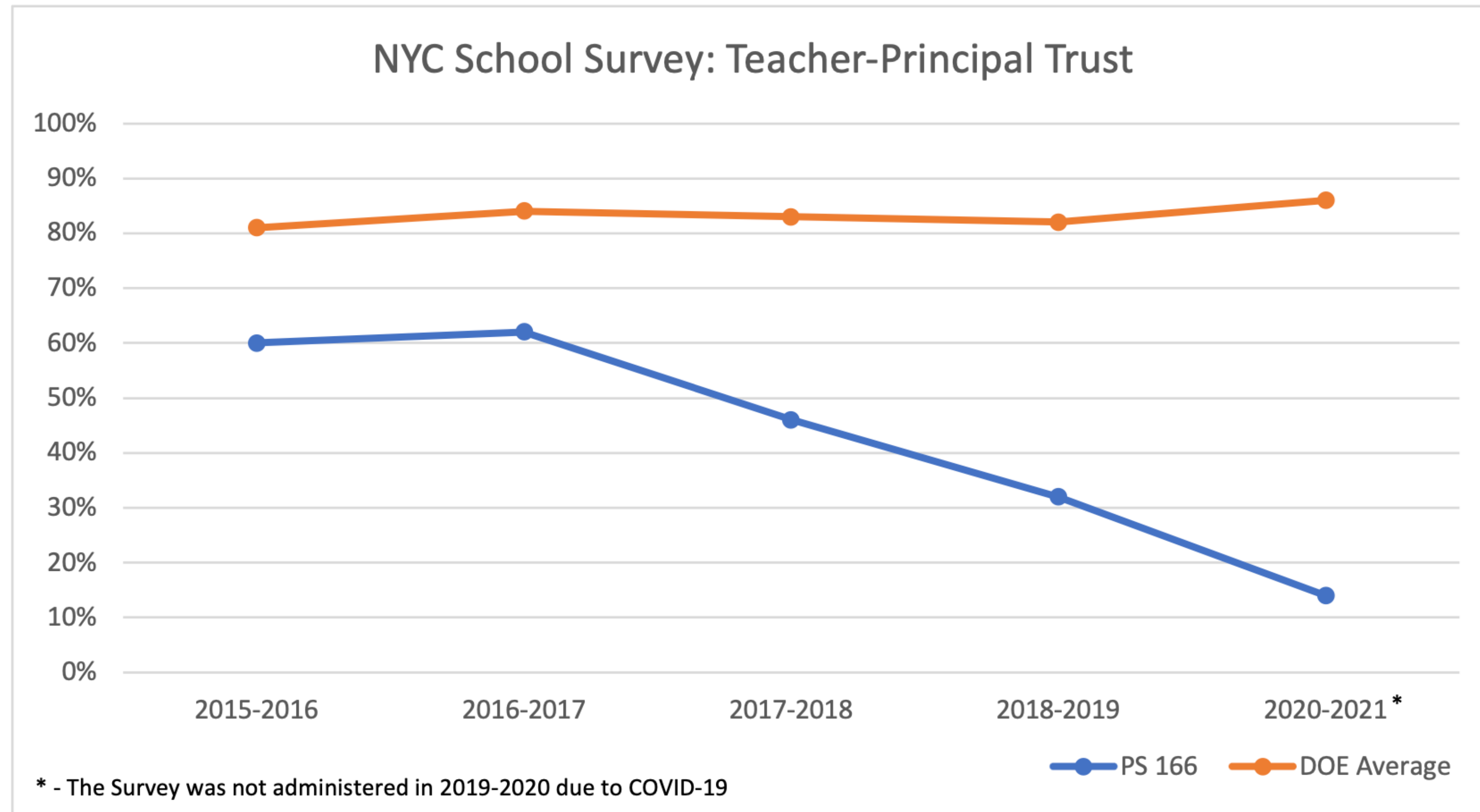
Confidence:
0



Votes

Staff-Principal Trust is astonishingly low

2020-2021 School Survey showed only 14% teacher trust in principal Mastriano, 72 percentage points lower than the DOE average



That low trust and mistreatment has led to a staggeringly high staff attrition rate

- In 2021 UFT survey **79%** of respondents expressed desire to seek employment **elsewhere** - *76% said that a change in leadership would directly impact their decision*
- Mastriano's leadership has seen **at least 93 employees leave PS 166 over 10 years**

Discrimination and bullying in school

2022 Spring Staff Survey depicts principal as racist and bully

- 64% of UFT members heard Mastriano make **racially disparaging comments** about students and parents
- 71% observed Mastriano make **negative comments about a student's academic performance and abilities in front of other children**
- 59% witnessed Mastriano display **physically menacing or verbally abusive behavior toward students**

There is an **excessive focus on test scores**. Our kids are missing out on social emotional development and other wonderful academic and artistic opportunities that used to be an integral part of the Richard Rodgers School of the Arts and Technology.

Programs, activities, and partnerships that have been abandoned include:

- Metropolitan Opera
- YMCA Free After School
- Vital Theater residency
- Salvadori Center
- Ballet Hispanico
- Wellness in the Schools
- Dance as a special class
- Day-Long Dance Festival
- Halloween Party (w/parents)
- Shakespeare Week
- Book Buddies
- Dedicated Science Teacher
- Student Council
- Birthday Celebrations
- 1st grade restaurant – students would pick a theme and cook a meal to serve their parents
- Winter Cultural Pot Luck-w/Parents as part of Social Studies
- Central Park
- Lincoln Center
- NY Historical Society
- Child Mind Institute
- Liberty Science Center
- Art Farm
- Chess also used to be a major focus of PS 166, with a dedicated chess class in grades K-2 and a free after school chess team that placed in the top 10 in National Championships many times throughout the years

The increase in test scores is associated with a more than **50% decrease in students that are economically disadvantaged** (33% in 2012/13 to 16% in 2020/21)

- Teachers are asking for help. With the current rate of attrition we will be left without experienced and caring staff.
- We need to make sure we are raising our kids in a respectful environment and that the school goal is to provide the best education for ALL students.
- There are so many heart breaking stories from staff and parents, and many more we are yet unaware of.

If you have any stories you would like to share, or need to contact supportive parents, please reach out to betterps166@gmail.com