

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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June 13, 2012
Start: 10:09 AM
Recess: 10:15 AM

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
ROBERT JACKSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Charles Barron
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
G. Oliver Koppell
Jessica S. Lappin
James Vacca
Albert Vann
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Daniel Dromm
Karen Koslowitz
Stephen T. Levin

APPEARANCES (CONTINUED)

Deborah L. Rose
Mark S. Weprin
Vincent M. Ignizio
Eric A. Ulrich
David G. Greenfield

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2 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --June 13th,
3 2012. It's about ten minutes after 10 a.m. This
4 is the Committee on Education regarding a vote on
5 Resolution No. 1330. A resolution calling on the
6 New York State Legislature to pass and the
7 governor to sign into law A. 9861 and S. 7015,
8 legislation that would amend the State Education
9 Law enabling new York City to require that all
10 five year old children in the city of New York
11 attend kindergarten. With that, let me introduce
12 the members of the Committee, and then I'll turn
13 it over to the primary sponsor of the resolution,
14 Council Member Steve Levin. So those that are
15 present this morning are colleagues Danny Dromm of
16 Queens, Karen Koslowitz of Queens, Mark Weprin of
17 Queens, Margaret Chin of Manhattan, Dan Garodnick
18 of Manhattan, Vincent Ignizio of Staten Island,
19 Oliver Koppell of the Bronx, Al Vann of Brooklyn,
20 Jimmy Vacca of the Bronx, Helen Diane Foster of
21 the Bronx and Fernando Cabrera of the Bronx. With
22 that--and I'm sorry, I didn't mention Steve Levin
23 of Brooklyn. Let me turn it over to our
24 colleague, Steve Levin of Brooklyn to say a word
25 on this particular resolution.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman. I'll keep my remarks brief, but I
4 want to encourage my colleagues to vote for
5 Resolution No. 1330, which would require school
6 age children of the age of five to attend
7 kindergarten. Currently, the state law does not
8 require them to do so and as a consequence there
9 are roughly 2,500 children in New York City who
10 attend first grade, but do not attend
11 kindergarten; therefore, losing out on the
12 opportunities of education at the age of five that
13 our city affords them, and this bill would go a
14 long way towards furthering the goals of quality
15 education for all children in New York City and
16 for the health and well being of our city for many
17 years into the future. And with that, Mr.
18 Chairman, I'll turn back the microphone.

19 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you,
20 Council Member Levin. We've also been joined by
21 our colleague Jessica Lappin of Manhattan and
22 Debbie Rose of Staten Island. We held a hearing
23 on this in which several people spoke in favor of
24 this resolution. I did not hear anyone speak
25 against the resolution. So with that, we're going

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to ask the counsel to call the roll. Sure,
Council Member Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Is there
any movement in Albany to do this?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: - - .

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I haven't
gotten a recent update, Council Member Koppell,
but it's more understanding that the legislation
does have a lot of support in Albany.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: And—

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN:
[Interposing] And it passed the Assembly, but in
terms of the Senate, I do believe that it has
support, but I can follow up and give you the
status update.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: And the
2500 number is one that the Department of
Education concurs in or where does that come from?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: That is the
number of children that are attending first grade
that did not attend kindergarten this year.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: And is
that just in public school or all schools?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I believe
3 that's just public schools.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Alright,
5 Steve, but even—I mean, if it's only 2500, I was
6 concerned about the cost of this, but if it's only
7 2500 kids, that doesn't seem insurmountable to me.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Absolutely.
9 I think that it's something that the
10 administration has agreed in spirit that this is a
11 worthy goal and they have not raised objections
12 regarding the cost.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: and it's
14 just permissive? We would still have to do
15 something?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Correct.
17 Correct. The Department of Education would
18 actually have to enroll them.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chairman.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you,
23 Council Member. With that, I would ask counsel to
24 call the roll.

25 COUNSEL: Okay. Jackson?

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: I vote aye
and I recommend an aye vote on this particular
matter.

COUNSEL: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes.

COUNSEL: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

COUNSEL: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COUNSEL: Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

COUNSEL: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COUNSEL: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye,

COUNSEL: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COUNSEL: Levin?

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COUNSEL: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Colleagues,
Finance will begin immediately after this, so if
you're on Finance, please do not leave.

COUNSEL: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

COUNSEL: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [no audible
response]

COUNSEL: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [no audible
response]

COUNSEL: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [no audible
response]

COUNSEL: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no
audible response]

COUNSEL: Fifteen in the
affirmative.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: This resolution passes 15 in the affirmative and no negative. The vote on Resolution No. 1330 is hereby adjourned.

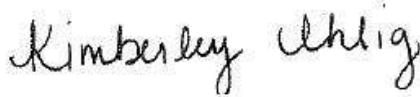
[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Finance will begin immediately. Finance will begin immediately.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature _____



Date _____ June 28, 2012 _____