

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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December 9, 2013
Start: 1:33 p.m.
Recess: 1:58 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E:
ROBERT JACKSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Barron
Lewis A. Fidler
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
Deborah L. Rose
Mark S. Weprin
Vincent M. Ignizio Eric A. Ulrich

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION 2

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
David G. Greenfield

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2 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Good afternoon and
3 welcome to the City Council's Education Committee
4 hearing where we're going to be voting on several
5 items, and one is Resolution Number 1394, a
6 Resolution calling upon the New York State
7 Education Department, the New York State
8 legislature and the Governor to reexamine public
9 school accountability systems and to develop a
10 system based on multiple forms of assessment which
11 do not require extensive standardized testing. So
12 that we'll be voting this Resolution out, and I
13 want to say that Jane Hirschmann, who is here from
14 A Time Out From Testing, we thank you for your
15 involvement on this particular matter, and also we
16 will be voting out proposed Intro Number 1091-A, a
17 local law to amend the Administrative Code of the
18 City of New York in relation to requiring the
19 Department of Education to distribute information
20 on college savings plans to all students. And this
21 bill is the first bill, to my understanding, being
22 put forward by our colleague Andy King of the
23 Bronx. And also we will be voting on today
24 proposed Intro Number 925-A, a local law to amend
25 the New York City Charter in relation to requiring

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the Department of Education to provide data regarding the provisions of Arts Instructional Requirements. Those are the three items that we'll be voting on today, and we're going to couple all items Intro Number 1091 by Andy King, proposed Intro Number 925-A, primary sponsor myself, and Resolution Number 1394, sponsored by myself also. So with that, as the Chair, I recommend an Aye vote on all three matters, and with that we're going to ask the clerk to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Penney [phonetic], Committee Clerk. Roll call on the Committee on Education. Council Member Jackson.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: I vote Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Chairman, may I briefly explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Sure, go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you. I will vote in favor of all these measures, although

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

I do want to say that I think there is still an important place for standardized testing in the educational environment. It may be overused in certain instances, and I will vote for it, but I do want to say that as a former chairman of a school board, I may have a somewhat different view of this than others, but I just want to say that. The other thing I want to say is I'm very pleased to see the bill that will require accountability with respect to arts education. As the Chairman knows, I have been a vehement advocate of arts education, particularly because my sister was a musician, has pointed out how poorly we do compared to other places in terms of arts education. And especially to point this out to the members who will be coming back next year, more has to be done in this area and I want to point out that the country of Venezuela, which is not nearly as developed as our country or our city, has a program called La Sistema [phonetic] where every student in every school learns to play an instrument, and they have orchestras in every school and then they have regional orchestras and national orchestras, and it's made a tremendous difference in the

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2 educational system in Venezuela, and I've tried
3 with several chancellors here in the city to
4 expand, and there is some similar programming in
5 some of our schools. I know there have been some
6 pilot efforts done to basically copy the Lane
7 Sustema system of Venezuela, but I hope that the
8 council will continue to push this. This
9 legislation is one step in that direction so that
10 you'll see... when they do publish the figures I
11 think what you're going to see is how deficient we
12 are in terms of arts education, not only music but
13 arts in general, and it's so important for
14 students. I can only tell you from my own
15 experience, my own family, my own grandchildren now
16 who are in school in Washington, D.C. and they're
17 very much involved in music and arts education, so
18 I compliment you on doing this bill even late in
19 our tenure here, and I withdraw my request and vote
20 aye on all.

21 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION 7

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote aye and

I just want to point out that the nerdy [SIC] gentleman from Riverdale has a definite difference in the definition of the word brief than I do. Just teasing you, Ollie, and I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all, and I ask that my name be added as a co-sponsor to proposed Intro 1091-A.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, all items have been adopted. Members, please sign the committee report.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: So, I'm going to hold the vote open for other members to arrive.

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Just FYI on proposed Intro 925 and proposed Intro 1091-A has no financial impact on the city's coffers. So, with that I'll just hold the vote open for other members to arrive. Thank you very much.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands at 13 in the affirmative. Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands at 14 in the affirmative.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: This hearing is hereby adjourned at 1:58 p.m. [gavel].

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 12/27/2013