

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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January 19, 2016  
Start: 10:13 a.m.  
Recess: 10:38 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
16th Fl.

B E F O R E:  
DANIEL DROMM  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Margaret S. Chin  
Stephen T. Levin  
Deborah L. Rose  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Ben Kallos  
Andy L. King  
Inez D. Barron  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Antonio Reynoso  
Mark Treyger  
Laurie A. Cumbo

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vanessa L. Gibson

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

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good morning

everyone, my name is Daniel Dromm and I'm the Chair of the Education Committee of the New York City Council; we're here today for a vote on three pieces of legislation which are really very important and something that I've kind of wanted to see happen in this City Council since I was a teacher back in... 25, 30 years ago, and the first one is a local law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to requiring the Department of Education to report information regarding health education; that legislation is sponsored by Council Member Laurie Cumbo. The second piece of legislation is a local law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to requiring the Department of Education to report on student health services; that is sponsored by Council Member Corey Johnson. And the third piece of legislation is a local law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to requiring transparency from the Department of Education on instructors receiving training in sexual health

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2 education and that is sponsored by Council Member  
3 Gibson.

4           And all three of these pieces of  
5 legislation are, in my opinion, excellent pieces of  
6 legislation clarifying for the Department of  
7 Education what information we'd like to see; we have  
8 seen an unequal application of sexual education  
9 courses throughout the system; by shining the light  
10 of transparency on what is being done in our schools  
11 will certainly help to improve the quality and the  
12 amount of time devoted to the teaching of sexual  
13 education, especially in this day and age where this  
14 information is so vitally important to our students.

15           I would like to also really thank the  
16 counsel for this committee, Aysha Schomburg, for the  
17 work that she did specifically to include lesbian,  
18 gay, bisexual and transgender youth issues in this  
19 legislation and in that sense it's also  
20 groundbreaking that the DOE will be responsible to  
21 report how sex education applies to members of that  
22 community as well. And with that I think I'm gonna  
23 call for a vote. Billy.

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on  
Education. Chair Dromm.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on 0957-A  
and 0771-A and abstain on 0952-A.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the  
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
Introductions 0771-A and 0957-A are adopted and by a

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2 vote of 8 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1  
3 abstention, Introduction 0952-A is adopted as well.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And before we  
5 adjourn, I wanna apologize and give an opportunity  
6 for Council Member Laurie Cumbo to say a few words.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I  
8 wanna start off by thanking the committee for being  
9 here this morning, following our MLK day weekend. I  
10 also wanna thank Council Member Ben Kallos for  
11 working on this piece of legislation with me, but I  
12 particularly really wanna give all the kudos to  
13 Council Member Danny Dromm; you have been so  
14 supportive and I can't thank you enough for your  
15 guidance, for calling together all of the advocates,  
16 of getting the proper allies and partners onboard so  
17 that we could pass this very monumental and important  
18 piece of legislation. And I just wanna say for so  
19 many young people that came out to testify, I wanna  
20 thank you, because this is the result of your hard  
21 work and your advocacy and as a member of the City  
22 Council, we as adults have a huge responsibility to  
23 make sure that young people have all of the tools,  
24 information and education that they need to make the  
25 proper decisions as it pertains to their health, as

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2 it pertains to their reproductive health and I really  
3 wanna make sure that we recognize those young people  
4 because they came forward and testified and gave very  
5 personal information about their life and how they so  
6 needed this type of education growing up. So I wanna  
7 thank everyone that made today possible; it's  
8 important that we make sure that young people who are  
9 making very adult decisions at a young age, we wanna  
10 make sure that we are promoting abstinence, but that  
11 we are also giving them the tools should they decide  
12 that they wanna make those types of decisions in  
13 their life. So thank you very much and I thank the  
14 entire committee.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 'Kay. And I'd also  
16 like to thank Council Member Vanessa Gibson, who is  
17 here and is the chief sponsor of one of the pieces of  
18 legislation as well and give her an opportunity to  
19 say a few words. Council Member Gibson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very  
21 much, Chair Dromm and good morning to each of you; to  
22 all of my colleagues, I apologize for my tardiness;  
23 almost two hours to get here from the Bronx,  
24 unfortunately. But I truly wanna thank Chair Dromm  
25 and all of my colleagues, in particular, Council



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2 Member Laurie Cumbo and Council Member Corey Johnson;  
3 I remember several weeks ago we stood on the steps of  
4 City Hall and collectively stood firm in making sure  
5 that all of our certified teachers in the public  
6 school system, especially those who teach sexual  
7 health education, have the property certification and  
8 access to the resources that are necessary. When you  
9 look at many of our health educators, we wanna make  
10 sure they are equipped with the proper resources and  
11 certainly the experience and the level of expertise.  
12 All too often we find many of our instructors who are  
13 gym teachers and art teachers who are administering  
14 sex health education and that simply is not  
15 acceptable in this society and we know that our young  
16 people are learning about sex from a myriad of ways  
17 and so it is appropriate and reasonable to make sure  
18 that if they're leaning about it in school they're  
19 learning about the proper ways to engage in this and  
20 so while we are not encouraging it, we wanna make  
21 sure our young people are experiencing sex health  
22 education in the proper way. So I'm very proud to be  
23 the prime sponsor of Int. 0957 and I thank all of my  
24 colleagues again, encourage you to please support  
25 this very important piece of legislation and thank

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

you once again to Chair Danny Dromm for your leadership and for your just trailblazing leadership of always being a champion of public health education for all of our children in our city's public schools. Thank you once again.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Council Member Gibson; thank you for your kind words and Council Member Cumbo as well; thank you for your kind words. I know that we've been joined by Council Member Mark Levine.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Levine, vote on Introduction 0771-A, 0952-A and 0957-A.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Mr. Chair, I vote aye on all.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 'Kay. I wanna keep the vote open for about another 15 minutes or so and wanna thank all the members who joined us at this point. Thank you very much; congratulations to our sponsors. Thank you. Yay.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee on Education. Council Member Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on all.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on Education, Introduction 0771-A and 0957-A have been adopted by a vote of 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions and Introduction 0952-A has been adopted by a vote of 10 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1 abstention.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 'Kay. Thank you very much and with that, this meeting is adjourned at 10:37 in the morning.

[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 January 28, 2016