

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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June 20, 2017
Start: 2:33 p.m.
Recess: 2:47 p.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
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Inez D. Barron
Chaim M. Deutsch
Mark Levine
Alan N. Maisel
Antonio Reynoso
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Helen K. Rosenthal
Mark Treyger

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

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

[background comments]

[sound check]

[background comments]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Education Committee vote on Proposed Introduction No. 1347-A, sponsored by Council Member Robert Cornegy, and Proposed Resolution No. 1415-A, sponsored by Council Member Annabel Palma and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

When talking about educating our children and preparing them for the future, the conversation cannot simply end at basic math and reading scores; we have to recognize the cultural environment in which our students learn has an impact on their educational outcomes and we have to provide our students with as many opportunities as possible to reach their highest levels of achievement.

New York City is a city that champions diversity and inclusion. In particular, this month is Pride Month, when we come together to celebrate the LGBT community, events take place around the city to highlight the contributions of LGBT individuals

1
2 and the importance of the LGBT movement to educate
3 and empower individuals.

4 On June 4th I was thrilled to attend the
5 Queens Pride Parade and see students from our public
6 schools proudly marching with teachers, their parents
7 and other staff members who were wearing their OUT
8 for Safe Schools badges. The DOE tonight, in fact,
9 is holding their second annual Pride Celebration at
10 Tweed at 5:30.

11 Although we have made strides in
12 embracing diversity and recognizing individuals for
13 who they are, there is more that can be done; that is
14 why I'm so proud that our committee will be voting on
15 Proposed Resolution 1415-A today.

16 Our educational practices should
17 reinforce that in our city all identities are valued
18 and members of every group make remarkable
19 contributions to our society. Proposed Resolution
20 1415-A calls on the State to create a task force to
21 review state learning standards and whether they are
22 culturally relevant, challenge racism, ableism, and
23 sexism and affirm LGBTQ and transgender nonconforming
24 perspectives.

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2 As the Speaker discussed in her State of
3 the City Address in February, in the current climate
4 in our country our students need the critical
5 thinking skills necessary to challenge racism, sexism
6 and other forms of discrimination; an important step
7 in that effort is ensuring that the content we teach
8 in our schools fosters critical thinking and reflects
9 the diversity of our students.

10 We also must ensure that students and
11 families are informed about the many opportunities
12 available to them in our school system, including
13 gifted and talented programs. Proposed Intro 1347-A
14 would require the Department of Education to
15 distribute information on gifted and talented
16 programs to the parents of every pre-kindergarten
17 student. This bill would require outreach to
18 families so that they are aware of G&T options and
19 the exam and application process. It is imperative
20 that we communicate clearly with our students and
21 their families so that they can take full advantage
22 of the options provided by our public school system.

23 I want to thank my colleagues for
24 sponsoring this legislation; I'd also like to thank
25 the Speaker for her support and recognition of the

1
2 importance of advocating for culturally responsive
3 teaching in our schools. And I'd also like to
4 recognize the Council Members who have joined us; we
5 have Council Member Mark Levine, Council Member Debi
6 Rose, Council Member Ben Kallos, Council Member Alan
7 Maisel, Council Member Mark Treyger, Council Member
8 Antonio Reynoso, Council Member Vinny Gentile,
9 Council Member Rafael Salamanca, and Council Member
10 Margaret Chin. [background comment] And.. oh, Council
11 Member Dan Garodnick is also here with us. Thank you
12 all for being here. I think I've got everyone now
13 and.. [background comments] so I'm gonna ask the
14 clerk.. [background comment] oh yes, Council Member
15 Palma was unable to join us today, but has submitted
16 remarks for the record. And I'm gonna ask the clerk
17 to call the vote.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew
19 DeStefano, Committee on Education, roll call on Intro
20 No. 1347-A and Resolution 1415-A. Chair Dromm.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye on both.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on both.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on both, and
can you add me to Reso 1415-A as a co-sponsor? Thank
you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on both, and
I'd like to be added to Intro 1347-A and Reso 1415-A.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Proud to vote in
favor of 1347-A of which I am a sponsor and please
add me to Resolution 1415-A. And I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I'll be voting
aye on both and I'm gonna continue the trend and ask
to be listed as a sponsor on both. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes on both.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all and
also would like to be put on both of those, please.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye on both;
please add my name **[inaudible]**.

COMMITTEE CLERK: On... on both?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yeah, both.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: 'Kay. Salamanca.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

6 Garodnick.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote aye.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 11 in the
10 affirmative.. [interpose]

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And we also have been
12 joined by Council Member Inez Barron.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you

15 Mr. Chair. I vote aye on both and I'm also a
16 sponsor, proudly, so thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 12 in the
18 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
19 the items have been adopted.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And thank you very
21 much and I'd like to keep the vote open for about 15
22 minutes or so for other members to join us so that
23 they can have the opportunity to vote as well. Thank
24 you very much.

25 [pause]

[background comment]

Thank you very much; we have also now been joined by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez. Clerk, would you ask for the vote?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee on Education, roll call on items Intro 1347-A and Resolution 1415-A. Council Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands at 13 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative; no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 'Kay. Thank you.

[pause]

Okay ladies and gentlemen, we've been joined by Council Member Chaim Deutsch. Clerk, would you call the vote?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on Education, continuation of roll call, Intro 1347-A; Resolution 1415-A. Council Member Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes on 1347-A; no on 1415-A.

COMMITTEE CLERK: 'Kay, the vote now stands at 14 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative;

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no abstentions for Intro 1347-A; 13 affirmative, 1 in
the negative and no abstentions on Resolution 1415-A.

[pause]

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. So the
Education Committee vote of June 20th is now
adjourned at 2:47 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 July 12, 2017