

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Start: 9:52 A.M.

Recess: 10:01 A.M.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Hon. Rita Joseph, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Alexa Avilés
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif
Kamillah Hanks
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Julie Menin
Mercedes Narcisse
Lincoln Restler
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

2 SERGEANT LEONARDO: Good morning, this is an audio
3 test for The Committee on Education. Today's date is
4 September 6, 2022 to be recorded by Michael Leonardo
5 in the Council Chambers.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, everyone, welcome
7 to today's New York City Hearing of The Committee on
8 Education. Please place electronic devices to
9 vibrate or silent mode.

10 Thank you for your cooperation, Chair, we are
11 ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you, calling the
13 meeting to order [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND].

14 Good morning, and welcome, everybody to today's
15 Committee on Education vote on Resolution 283-A,
16 sponsored by Speaker Adams. I am proud to have signed
17 on to this resolution, as a cosponsor, along with 35
18 of my colleagues.

19 Resolution 283-A calls on the Mayor and the
20 Chancellor of the Department of Education (DOE) to
21 immediately reverse the DOE's reductions to school
22 budgets; calling on the Chancellor to submit updated
23 school budgets to the Panel for Educational Policy
24 reflecting the restoration, as well as an accounting
25 of unspent federal stimulus funds; and calling on the

2 Mayor to promptly utilize any unspent and unallocated
3 federal stimulus or other funds and submit a budget
4 modification to the Council to fully restore the \$469
5 million removed from school budgets by DOE.

6 The committee previously heard testimony on
7 Resolution Number 283-A from parents, advocates, and
8 all other interested stakeholders at a hearing on
9 August 22, 2022. At the hearing, we heard from New
10 York City Comptroller, The United Federation of
11 Teachers, and many advocates that the pending cuts to
12 schools are unnecessary due to remaining federal
13 stimulus funds and harmful to our schools and
14 students. More importantly, we heard directly from
15 parents and teachers about the devastating impact
16 that the COVID pandemic had on students' mental
17 health as well as academic performance.

18 All of the testimony made it abundantly clear
19 that we should not be cutting school budgets at this
20 time. Rather, we should be investing in needed
21 services and support to help students recover from
22 the impact of COVID-19.

23 As I stated in my opening remarks at the August
24 22nd hearing, we want to acknowledge that the
25 administration has met with us to negotiate restoring

2 funds to schools, but we have been unable to reach an
3 agreement thus far. Hopefully the Mayor and the
4 Chancellor will agree to reverse these cuts to ensure
5 that schools are equipped to meet the needs of our
6 students this school year. As is called for by the
7 Resolution 283-A. I encourage all of my colleagues
8 to vote yes on this resolution.

9 I would like to thank my staff and the committee
10 staff. And, I will not turn to the clerk to call the
11 roll. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,
13 Committee Clerk; roll call vote The Committee on
14 Education on Proposed Resolution Number 283-A.

15 Chair Joseph?

16 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (NO RESPONSE)

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dinowitz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: (NO RESPONSE)

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Feliz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: (NO RESPONSE)

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Abreu?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Avilés?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye, aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: De La Rosa?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: (NO RESPONSE)

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gutiérrez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: (NO RESPONSE)

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanif?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanks?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Krishnan?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Narcisse?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

22 Restler?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye, and I want to

24 thank Chair Joseph for her work on this, and I look

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2 forward to a muscular fight with all of you all on
3 the next budget modification.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Sanchez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: (NO RESPONSE)

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Schulman?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Stevens?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ung?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 15 in the
13 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
14 items has been adopted by the committee, and the role
15 will be held open at request of The Chair.

16 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you, Colleagues, for
17 standing with the... for our New York City
18 Children's teachers, thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, The
20 Committee on Education, Council Member Dinowitz?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Yes. [BACKGROUND NOISE]
22 [INAUDIBLE]

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: And, thank you.

24 Council Member Dinowitz votes, aye.

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2 The vote is now currently 16 in the affirmative,
3 0 in the negative, and no abstentions. Roll is still
4 open.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: [BACKGROUND NOISE] Still
6 rolling?

7 Quiet, please. One moment. Continuation roll
8 call, Committee on Education, Proposed Resolution
9 283-A.

10 Council Member De La Rosa?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gutiérrez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, both members have
15 voted aye.

16 The vote is currently now at 18 in the
17 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.

18 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Alright, we can close the
19 vote. Thank you, Colleagues, for voting and
20 supporting this resolution.

21 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: That's a wrap.

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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 September 12, 2022