

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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September 10, 2019
Start: 3:16 p.m.
Recess: 3:39 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: MARK TREYGER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Inez D. Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Justin L. Brannan
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Daniel Dromm
Barry S. Grodenchik
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levie
Farah N. Louis
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Erich A. Ulrich.

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

2 [sound check] [pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Okay. Good
4 afternoon. My name is Mark Treyger. I'm the Chair
5 for the Committee on Education. We are convened here
6 this afternoon for a vote on a package of bills and
7 resolutions aimed at the health and wellness more
8 than 1.1 million students in New York City education
9 system. Research shows that establishing healthy
10 behaviors in younger people is easier and more
11 effective than efforts to change unhealthy behaviors
12 already established in adults. In recognition of
13 this afternoon hour, I'll be very brief in my opening
14 remarks. Proposed Introduction 560-A a bill I am
15 proud to sponsor would require the DOE to report on
16 its pilot program, which we actually pushed for to
17 review school start times to reduce adolescent sleep
18 deprivation. The Center for Disease Control CDC 2015
19 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that on average
20 72.7% of high school students were getting less than
21 eight hours of sleep on week nights even though
22 optimal sleep for adolescents is between 8-1/2 and 9-
23 1/2 hours per night. Studies show that lack of
24 sufficient sleep impacts an adolescent's mood,
25 behavior controls, attention and academic

2 performance. It also leads to greater risk of mood
3 disorders like depression and anxiety, increased
4 stimulated use, a rise in drowsy driving rate of
5 traffic crashes and increased obesity and obesity
6 related diseases such as Diabetes. Early school
7 start time may interfere with the natural circadian
8 rhythms of developing adolescents who generally get
9 tired much later in the evening than younger
10 students. Starting middle and high schools later
11 after 8:00 a.m. could help with the adolescent's
12 schedule more in line with his or her body's natural
13 clock. Studies have shown that when school districts
14 start a school later, which they're doing across the
15 country, students had reduced tardiness and truancy,
16 lower levels of depression and improved academic
17 outcomes. In addition, excessively early school
18 start times can disturb students' meal schedule.
19 When schools start very early, lunch is sometimes
20 held before 11:00 a.m. We have schools in our school
21 system that serve lunch at 9:00 in the morning. That
22 is not lunch. That is breakfast and that is not good
23 for students and for our children. That is breakfast
24 to me. We must look at the school day in holistic
25 manner, and make sure student are comfortable to

2 throughout the day. Proposed Introduction 560-A
3 would require the DOE to submit a report to the Mayor
4 and the Speaker of the Council regarding the key
5 findings and recommendations of-of its school start
6 pilot program on or before September 30th of 2020.
7 The report would include the names of the schools,
8 the start times, the community outreach engagement
9 plan, and key findings regarding attendance and
10 lateness whether the DOE intends to continue or
11 expand the program and recommend changes to start
12 times system wide. This is going to force the DOE to
13 have a real comprehensive look at programming in the
14 school system, which it really has not done for quite
15 some time. I used to teach a 7:30 in the morning
16 Region's class, and I had students from the Bronx,
17 and I taught in Brooklyn, and students would have to
18 travel sometimes using two trains and two buses to
19 get to my school for a 7:30 in the morning class.
20 They would come routinely late, and the were sleep-
21 sleep deprived. That affected their academic
22 performance. We have to build a school system around
23 the needs of our kids and nothing else. I also just
24 want to point out we have other bills and resolutions
25 here today. I-I think we have Council Member Cabrera

2 who will briefly speak upon Resolution Number 238
3 calling on the department to ban processed meats from
4 being served in New York City's schools. Council
5 Member Cabrera, you have the floor.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
7 much. I literally will take 30 seconds. I just came
8 to thank you, to thank the committee in support of
9 this resolution when we have the research clearly
10 stating that just eating processed meats twice a week
11 increases the chances of death by 50%. I think it's
12 paramount that the New York City borough ban--will ban
13 processed meats in serving New York City public
14 schools. Thank you so much.

15 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you Council
16 Member Cabrera, and next we have the bill that I
17 think this--she has been relentless on this issue and
18 we really appreciate her leadership calling attention
19 to it to a real public health crisis in my opinion.
20 Council Member Barron for Resolution No. 632 calling
21 on the department to create a Diabetes and Pre-
22 Diabetes health-based curriculum. Council Member
23 Barron you have the floor.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. I just want to briefly call my colleagues'

2 attention to this resolution. As has been stated it
3 calls on the DOE to establish a Diabetes and Pre-
4 Diabetes curriculum. We know that 40% of the
5 children in our school are overweight, and we know
6 that Diabetes is a chronic condition that affects a
7 large percentage of our population. We want to do
8 all that we can as the Chair has said to establish
9 good habits rather than try to correct situation as
10 these children grow into adulthood. So, I ask all of
11 my colleagues to support this resolution. Thank you
12 very much.

13 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very much
14 Council Member and thank you for your leadership, and
15 we're also voting on a Resolution sponsored by
16 Council Member Levin, Resolution 716-A calling on the
17 department to adopt all the policy recommendations of
18 the Mayor's Sexual Health Education Task Force and
19 provide comprehensive sexual health education on a
20 regular basis across all grade levels. I'd like to
21 thank my staff and committee staff for getting ready
22 for today's vote. I'd like to thank my colleagues for
23 being here today so this committee can vote on the
24 package of bills and resolutions, and I'll now ask
25 the clerk to please call the vote.

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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2 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.

3 Roll call vote Committee on Education. All items are
4 couple. Chair Treyger.

5 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Barron.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] I vote
8 aye. [on mic] I vote aye, and ask to be added to all
9 votes that I'm not already just signed onto. Thank
10 you.

11 CLERK: Cornegy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNERGY: [off mic] Aye.

13 CLERK: Dromm.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

15 CLERK: Lander.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Rose.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye and please add
19 me to all coupled bills and resolutions. Thank you.

20 CLERK: Grodenchik.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

22 CLERK: Salamanca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

2 CLERK: Brannan

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

4 CLERK: Louis.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

6 CLERK: Borelli.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye on
8 all except Reso 238. I simply cannot join this gang
9 of gastronomic jacobins in this war against chicken
10 cutlets and other delicious lunch meats. [laughter]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: You're forgiven.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Do they use the
13 guillotine to slice the meet? Is that what you're
14 saying? [laughter] But seriously I never--

15 CLERK: [interposing] By a vote of 12 in
16 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
17 abstentions, all items are adopted by the committee
18 with Resolution 238 being adopted by the committee 11
19 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and no
20 abstentions.

21 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I do want to note
22 also this was the—our first committee gathering and
23 vote with our great addition to the Education
24 Committee Council Member Farah Louis. [applause]
25 Yes, she is a dynamo, and we're very, very lucky to

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2 have her serve in this committee. We thank her for
3 her great leadership and support of-of public
4 schools. So thank you so much Council Member Louis,
5 and I do think we'll leave the vote open for how
6 [background comments/pause] Council Member Borelli,
7 what was that?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: In cases of--

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] In
10 cases, yeah I haven't heard that the Jacobins in
11 French Revolution lessons. [laughter] So, that's
12 quite-quite a stretch Council Member Borelli. Thank
13 you. We'll leave the vote open for-for ten minutes.
14 Thank you very much. [pause]

15 CLERK: Continuation roll call the
16 Committee on Education, Council Member Levine.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: The current vote [pause]

19 [background comments] Continuation roll call the
20 Committee on Education, Council Member King.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I vote aye. [pause]

22 CLERK: Continuation roll call the
23 Committee on Education, Council Member Kallos.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

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2 CLERK: The final vote on today's agenda
3 for Committee on Education all items have been
4 adopted by a vote of 15 in the affirmative, 0 in the
5 negative and no abstentions with the exception of
6 Resolution 238, which is adopted by the committee 14
7 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and zero
8 abstentions. Thank you. [pause]

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: The vote is
10 officially done. [gavel]

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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 14, 2019