

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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December 7, 2017
Start: 1:09 p.m.
Recess: 1:24 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

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
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: We're going to start
4 now. Everyone please find a seat. [gavel]

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, good afternoon
6 everyone. I'm Daniel Dromm and I'm the Chair of the
7 Education Committee. Today, we're going to vote
8 first on three pieces of legislation, and then we
9 will begin the hearing on diversity after that. I
10 will have to leave at some point also to go vote in
11 the Oversight and Investigations Committee on
12 legislation next door. So, you'll see me get up to
13 do that as well. (coughs) The first piece of
14 legislation that we'll be voting on today is Intro
15 No. 1757-A. It's sponsored by Council Member Treyger
16 and myself, Levine and Rose, and that is a Local Law
17 to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New
18 York in relation to requiring the Department of
19 Education to report information on student-to-student
20 bullying, harassment, intimidation and
21 discrimination. We'll also be voting on Intro No.
22 1538-A, sponsored by myself, Council Member Richards,
23 Council Member Menchaca, and Rose, a Local Law to
24 amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York
25 in relation to requiring the Department of Education

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2 to post contact information for each school related
3 to reporting incidents of bullying, harassment,
4 intimidation and discrimination, and we'll be voting
5 and Intro 1486-A, sponsored by Council Member Kallos,
6 Gentile and myself, which is a Local Law to amend the
7 Administrative Code of the City of new York in
8 relation to requiring the Department of Education to
9 report information on school applications, offers of
10 admission, enrollment and school seats available. I
11 fully support all of these pieces of legislation.
12 All three bills will provide the public with
13 important information and data that will help improve
14 the educational experience of the city's students. I
15 urge the committee to vote in favor of these bills,
16 and I now call on the Clerk to call the roll.

17 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew
18 DiStefano, Committee on Education 12:45 hearing.
19 Roll call on Intro Nos. 1486-A, 1538-A and 1757-A.
20 Chair Dromm.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

22 CLERK: Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

24 CLERK: Chin.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on all,
3 and please add my name to the co-sponsors. Thank
4 you.

5 CLERK: Rose.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

7 CLERK: Barron.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye and
9 ask that my name also be added as a co-sponsor.

10 CLERK: Deutsch.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

12 CLERK: Kallos.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

14 CLERK: Maisel.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

16 CLERK: Reynoso.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Treyger.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Chair,
20 permission to explain my vote?

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Yes. Thank you,
23 Mr. Chair. Bullying leads to tragic consequences,
24 and we must do more as a city to make sure that our
25 schools are safe for all students, and staff. As a

2 former educator, I've seen first hand the physical,
3 emotional and psychological impact that bullying can
4 have on students. Because of social media bullying
5 has taken on new forms, and is likelier than ever to
6 spill out-out of the school campus and into the home
7 lives of students. In recent months, several New
8 Yorkers have tragically lost their lives because of
9 incidents rooted in bullying. My new bill, which was
10 actually introduced before the recent tragedies, is
11 designed to help us learn how bullying begins, where
12 bullying persists, whether or not schools have enough
13 resources and are currently utilizing them to deal
14 with it. My bill also examines how effectively
15 schools are ensuring parents are aware of bullying
16 incidents involving their children, and are involved
17 in the process every step of the way. Again, we need
18 to make sure that all of our students are safe and
19 respected at school. A big thanks to Chair Danny
20 Dromm, the outstanding staff—the committee staff of
21 the Education Committee, my colleagues for supporting
22 the bill. Chair Dromm is a co-sponsor as well as
23 Council Member Mark Levine, which requires schools to
24 report these bullying tactic-tactics. I also want to
25 give a shout-out and thanks to Chancellor Carmen

2 Farina, who immediately endorsed the bill at a recent
3 hearing. The more we know about bullying, the better
4 prepared we are to stop it and prevent it from
5 happening in the first place and I thank my
6 colleagues. I vote aye.

7 CLERK: Okay. Levin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Garodnick.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

11 CLERK: By a vote of 12 in the
12 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
13 the items have been adopted. [pause] Continuation
14 roll call. Councilwoman Rosenthal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
16 all. Thank you.

17 CLERK: Okay, but a vote of 13 in the
18 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
19 the items have been adopted.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, so we're going
21 to leave the vote open for a couple of minutes while
22 I go next door to vote and I will be right back, and
23 we have to switch the disks also. [background
24 comments, pause]

25 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down, please.

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2 CLERK: Continuation of roll call.

3 [pause] Council Member Levine.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye

5 CLERK: Okay, the vote is now 14 in the
6 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

7 Thank you. [pause] Continuation of roll call.

8 Council Member Salamanca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: The vote now stands at 15 in the
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, with that I
14 adjourn the vote at 1:25 p.m. [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 December 21, 2017