

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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January 21, 2015  
Start: 11:25 a.m.  
Recess: 12:00 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room  
16th Floor

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  
Mark S. Weprin  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Andy L. King  
Inez D. Barron  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Antonio Reynoso  
Mark Treyger

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

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much.  
3 My name is Daniel Dromm, and I'm Chair of the  
4 Council's Committee on Education. And I just want to  
5 thank everybody for coming in today, and acknowledged  
6 that we've been joined by Council Member Chaim  
7 Deutsch, the Chair of the Committee on Non-Public  
8 School Education; Alan Maisel from Brooklyn; Inez  
9 Barron from Brooklyn; Council Member Fernando Cabrera  
10 from the Bronx; Vincent Gentile from Brooklyn;  
11 Margaret Chin from Manhattan; Debbie Rose who made it  
12 despite an accident. I hope everything is all right,  
13 Council Member. Okay. God bless. And we're here  
14 today to vote on a piece of legislation introduced by  
15 Council Member Cabrera who has been working on this  
16 for at least two and a half years, I believe. And  
17 finally has come to fruition, and it is a Local Law  
18 to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New  
19 York in relation to requiring the reporting of  
20 environmental data regarding schools. And as we  
21 learned at the hearing, this is a very important  
22 piece of legislation in terms of notifying the  
23 public, including parents, community boards, elected  
24 officials, former, the parents of former students in  
25 schools in writing about any type of environmental

2 inspections that go on in the schools. So, a bill  
3 like this is transparent, and creates transparency I  
4 think is one that's a good piece of legislation. And  
5 so I urge the members of the committee to vote in  
6 support of this. And I want to give an opportunity  
7 for Council Member Cabrera to say a few words as  
8 well.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chair, and thank you for allowing for this bill to  
11 come to this committee. Good morning everyone. I'm  
12 Council Member Fernando Cabrera. I would like to  
13 thank everyone for attending this meeting today, and  
14 extend a special thanks to you Chair Dromm and  
15 members of the Education Committee for this  
16 opportunity to consider passing a bill, Intro 126, a  
17 Local Law to amend the Administrative Code of new  
18 York and New York City in relation to requiring the  
19 reporting of environmental data regarding school. I  
20 also want to give a special thanks to the Counsel  
21 Ayesha Schomburg; Lyle Frank; Tiersa Masseur [sp?]  
22 and Lyle Papa. They did a fantastic job. I will  
23 have the on my side any time on any bill. I mean  
24 they were simply amazing. The New York Lawyers for  
25

2 Public Interest especially staff attorney Mark  
3 Layden.[sp?]

4           There have been some incidents when the  
5 Department of Education failed to make information  
6 about environmental health and safety available for  
7 public school parents and community members. For  
8 instance, at Bronx new school P.S. 51 parents and  
9 staff were kept in the dark for over six months after  
10 the DOE discovered unsafe chemical levels in their  
11 school air. And were only notified after the  
12 contamination, after the school was shut down during  
13 summer vacation. And that's not the only school.  
14 Prior to that on the news we saw a school in Port  
15 Chester.

16           Intro 126 will prevent these types of  
17 incidents by requiring the DOE to report  
18 environmental inspections and guarantee the right to  
19 access assessment results in a timely fashion. I  
20 urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important  
21 legislation that will increase DOE transparency. Mr.  
22 Chair, thank you again. I really, really appreciate  
23 it.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much,  
3 and seeing as we do not have any requests from the  
4 public to speak, I will call the vote.

5 CLERK: Kevin Penn, Committee Clerk.  
6 Roll call in the Committee of Education, Intro 126-A.  
7 Council Member Dromm?

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Gentile.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Chin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

13 CLERK: Rose.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye and I'm so--

15 [pause]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: The bill is going  
17 to pass that ensures-- [off mic]

18 CLERK: Weprin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

20 CLERK: Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

22 CLERK: Deutsch.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

24 CLERK: Maisel.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

2 CLERK: By a vote of 8 in the  
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,  
4 the item has been adopted.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, and I'm going  
6 to ask the clerk to keep the vote open for about a  
7 half hour for members who are still coming from other  
8 committee hearings, and with that I say thank you and  
9 good luck, and I appreciate everybody coming in?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you.

11 [pause]

12 [background conversation]

13 CLERK: Garodnick.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

15 CLERK: The vote stands at 9 in the  
16 affirmative.

17 [pause]

18 [background conversation]

19 CLERK: Treyger.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: The vote stands at 10 in the  
22 affirmative.

23 [background conversation]

24 CLERK: Williams.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Wait, I need to  
3 vote here.

4 [pause]

5 [background conversation]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

7 CLERK: Levine.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I proudly vote  
9 aye.

10 CLERK: The vote stands at 12 in the  
11 affirmative.

12 [background conversation]

13 [pause]

14 CLERK: King.

15 [background comments]

16 CLERK: The final vote in the Committee  
17 on Education is 13 in the affirmation, 0 in the  
18 negative, and no abstentions.

19 [pause]

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So we're going to  
21 close it. Meeting adjourned at 12 o'clock. [gavel]  
22 Thank you.

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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 January 28, 2015