

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

----- X

November 21, 2024
Start: 10:21 a.m.
Recess: 10:26 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Rita C. Joseph, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana Hanif
Kamillah M. Hanks
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farrah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, this is a
3 microphone check for the Committee on Education.
4 Today's date is November 21, 2024, located in the
5 Chambers, recording done by Pedro Lugo. Can everybody
6 settle down and take a seat? We're getting ready to
7 begin.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
9 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
10 Committee on Education.

11 At this time, no one is to approach the
12 dais, and everybody please silence all electronic
13 devices.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Good morning and
16 welcome everyone. I'm Council Member Rita Joseph,
17 Chair of the Committee on Education.

18 Today the Committee is voting on the
19 following legislation. Intro. number 515-A, sponsored
20 by Council Member Justin Brannan, a local law to
21 amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York
22 in relation to requiring the Department of Education
23 to report information about employees of school bus
24 transportation vendors, and Reso. number 250,
25 sponsored by Council Member Kevin Riley, calling on

2 the New York State Legislature to pass and the
3 Governor to sign legislation that require all school
4 buses operating within the state, regardless of
5 seating capacity, to have a stop arm on each side,
6 and to prohibit any school buses from operating if
7 they do not have functioning stop arms. The Committee
8 previously heard testimony on this legislation at its
9 September 30, 2024, hearing on upgrading school
10 transportation services and rebidding contracts.

11 We are joined by Council Member Louis,
12 Council Member Hanks, Council Member Gutiérrez,
13 Council Member Lee, Council Member Won, Council
14 Member Riley, Council Member Hanif, Council Member
15 Schulman, and Council Member Stevens.

16 School transportation is a vital service
17 that ensures students can access their education
18 safely and reliably, providing a critical link
19 between home and school. For families across our
20 city, both pieces of legislation aim to strengthen
21 schools, transportation services, enhancing the
22 safety and well-being of all students, particularly
23 those with disabilities.

24 I'd also like to recognize Council Member
25 Gennaro.

2 I encourage all of my colleagues to vote
3 yes on both of these important pieces of legislation.

4 Council Member Riley, would you like to
5 make a statement on your side?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Chair
7 Joseph. Good morning, colleagues. Thank you for the
8 opportunity to speak on Resolution 250, a critical
9 piece of legislation aimed at enhancing the safety of
10 our school transportation system. I want to thank my
11 18 Colleagues who have already joined as co-sponsors,
12 showing a shared commitment to protecting our city's
13 children. This resolution codifies a vital safety
14 standard by requiring all school buses, regardless of
15 size, to be equipped with stop arms on both sides.
16 These devices serve as a clear, visible warning for
17 drivers to stop when children are boarding or
18 disembarking. It also mandates that any bus without
19 functioning stop arms be removed from operation.
20 Every day, children's lives are endangered by drivers
21 who illegally pass school buses. By implementing
22 mandatory stop arms across the board, we're not just
23 enforcing traffic safety laws, we're actively
24 preventing accidents and tragedies. As a father, the
25 importance of this measure resonates deeply with me.

2 It's about more than just legislation, but it's about
3 creating a safer, more reliable school transportation
4 system that provides peace of mind for our families
5 citywide. I urge the Committee to vote yes in support
6 of this resolution. Together, we can take a vital
7 step towards ensuring the well-being of every child
8 in our city who utilize our school transportation
9 system. Thank you, Chair Joseph, for allowing me to
10 give my remarks today.

11 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you so much,
12 Council Member Riley.

13 I'd also like to recognize Council Member
14 Narcisse.

15 I would like to thank my Staff and
16 Committee Staff.

17 I will now turn to the Clerk to call the
18 roll.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
20 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
21 vote, Committee on Education. Both items are coupled.
22 Chair Joseph.

23 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION 6

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
5 you, Council Member Gennaro. Dinowitz.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
8 Guti rrez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER Guti rrez: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

17 you. Lee.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sanchez.

22 UNIDENTIFIED: Sanchez is on the way.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
4 vote of 12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
5 and no abstentions, both items have been adopted by
6 the Committee.

7 Madam Chair, we're expecting one more
8 Member.

9 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Yes, and I'd also
10 like to recognize Council Member Shekar.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you,
12 Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Any time.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
15 Continuation roll call, Committee on Education.
16 Council Member Sanchez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye. Thank you,
18 Chair. Thank you, Billy.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
20 you. Final vote is now 13 in the affirmative, zero in
21 the negative, and no abstentions.

22 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

23 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you. I'd like
24 to recognize Council Member Sanchez. Thank you for
25 wobbling in.

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

8

2 All right, we're closing it out.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hearing
4 is adjourned. Thank you.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 November 22, 2024