

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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DECEMBER 14, 2021  
Start: 2:06 P.M.  
Recess: 2:21 P.M.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING VIRTUAL ROOM 2

B E F O R E: CHAIR MARK TREYGER

COUNCIL MEMBERS: MARK TREYGER  
INEZ BARRON  
ROBERT CORNEGY  
BEN KALLOS  
BARRY GRODENCHIK  
ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL  
JUSTIN BRANNAN  
FARAH LOUIS  
KEVIN RILEY  
JAMES GENNARO  
ERIC DINOWITZ  
OSWALD FELIZ  
JOE BORELLI  
DEBRA ROSE  
RAFAEL SALAMANCA  
BRAD LANDER

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



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3 SGT BRADLEY: PC recording is up.

4 SGT LUGO: Cloud is up. Good afternoon,  
5 everyone. Welcome to today's remote New York City  
6 Council vote of the Committee on Education. At this  
7 time, would all panelists please turn on your videos.  
8 To minimize disruption, please place electronic  
9 devices to vibrate or silent. Thank you for your  
10 cooperation. Chair Treyger, we are ready to begin.  
11 Chair Treyger, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: Can folks hear me  
13 now? Hello.

14 SGT. LUGO: Yes, we can, Chair.

15 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: Okay.

16 SGT LUGO: Yes, we can.

17 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: Okay. Good  
18 afternoon and welcome everyone to today's Committee  
19 on Education vote on Resolutions 204, 205, 206, 207,  
20 and 208 sponsored by Council Member Eugene, and  
21 Resolution number 561 sponsored by Council Member  
22 Adams. This is the last vote of this committee for  
23 the 2018-2021 session. These Resolutions relate to  
24 various issues pertaining to the New York City  
25 Department of Education. Council Member Eugene's

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2 Resolution call for recognizing administrators and  
3 support staff for their work, including instructions  
4 in schools on peaceful conflict resolution, including  
5 swimming lessons and border safety education in  
6 school curricula, adding the history of Haiti,  
7 including the Haitian Revolution and the abolition of  
8 slavery to black history month curricula, and  
9 acknowledging the participation of Haitian soldiers  
10 in the siege in Savana in History curricula. Council  
11 Member Adam's Resolution calls for DOE to provide  
12 training in human trafficking to public school  
13 administrators, teachers, and staff with  
14 approximately 17,000 individuals trafficked into the  
15 U.S. each year, and the majority being women and  
16 children. In a city of more than one millions in our  
17 schools, this training in education is critical in  
18 fighting the surge of human trafficking. I'd like to  
19 thank my staff and committee staff for preparing for  
20 today's vote. I want to give a special shout out to  
21 the council's legislative documents in tracking unit,  
22 Ruthy, Matthew, Jonathan, Billy, who have literally  
23 had to deal with the hundreds of thousands of  
24 documents this body creates, track legislation from  
25 Bills to becoming Laws. It ensures the smooth

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2 running of stated meeting and committee votes, and  
3 for them and their hard work, we are thankful. I will  
4 now turn to the clerk to call the roll and I again  
5 ask if we can call on Council Member Barron to vote  
6 first in light of her emergency. Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you and good  
8 afternoon. This is the Committee on Education roll  
9 call vote on the Resolutions articulated by the  
10 Chair. We'll begin with Council Member Barron.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER INEZ BARRON: Thank you.  
12 Just briefly to explain my vote, I want to say it's  
13 been an honor working on this committee, working with  
14 the Chairs and with the staff, you've been fantastic.  
15 You know education is very important to me, and I  
16 wish everyone the best and with that, I vote I on  
17 all. Thank you.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Chair  
19 Treyger.

20 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: I vote I, and I  
21 thank council member for her remarks. I want to  
22 thank all my colleagues, members, the staff, the  
23 extraordinary staff. We've done a lot of tremendous,  
24 powerful work in this committee with the support of  
25 my amazing colleagues, everyone who has been really a

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2 public school champion for our kids, for educators  
3 during the most trying moments. Everyone has really  
4 been there for our schools. I cannot thank everyone  
5 enough. We have more work to do for the next  
6 council, the next administration, but thank you to  
7 everyone and to the best staff, the best staff, my  
8 staff, the committee staff, all of you are just  
9 extraordinary people. It's been an honor to work  
10 with you and I proudly vote I. Thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
12 Member Rodriguez. Council Member Dromm. Council  
13 Member Lander. Council Member Lander? Council  
14 Member Levin. Council Member Rose. Council Member  
15 Rose. Council Member Cornegy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT CORNEGY: I vote I.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
18 Member Kallos.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BEN KALLOS: Council  
20 Member Kallos here with Council Member elect Julie  
21 Menin and I vote I on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
23 Member Miller. Council Member Grodenchik.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRY GRODENCHIK: Thank  
25 you. I vote I on all and I want to echo some of my

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2 colleague's remarks. It's been a pleasure to serve  
3 under Chair Treyger for the last four years of this  
4 council, and I really want to thank him, especially  
5 for his push for fair student fundings and for more  
6 guidance counselors in our school, and it's been an  
7 absolutely pleasure working with you chairman, and  
8 with that, I vote I on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
10 Member Salamanca. Council Member Ampry-Samuel.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL: I  
12 vote I.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
14 Member Brannan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN BRANNAN: I.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FARAH LOUIS: I vote I and  
18 I just wanted to congratulate Chair Treyger for all  
19 his hard work. Thank you for always having the best  
20 interest of students and teachers, and for doing a  
21 phenomenal job with this committee and for being a  
22 mentor to me on education. Thank you.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
24 Member Riley.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KEVIN RILEY: I vote I.



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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GENNARO: I vote  
4 yes, and I'll take this opportunity to really give a  
5 heartfelt thanks to the Chair for all the great work  
6 that he's done as Chair of this committee for the  
7 brief time that I've had the privilege to serve.  
8 Since I've, you know, got back to the council, and I  
9 really admire your Chairmanship, your leadership, and  
10 who you are as a human being, and I know that  
11 whatever you do going forward, you'll have just as  
12 great of an impact as you had here. So, all the  
13 best, God speed, and (inaudible) for the last time,  
14 and here I am back again, so you know, never say  
15 never, but God bless.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
17 Member Dinowitz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ: I vote I,  
19 and I also want to take a moment to thank Chair  
20 Treyger. I left the classroom, I left the students,  
21 and now, you know, coming into the council, being  
22 under the leadership of a former teacher, Mark  
23 Treyger has been an incredible experience, and I  
24 think of the short time that I've been here under  
25 your leadership, Mark, we've been able to get a lot

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2 of good stuff done for our children, so I thank you  
3 for that.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
5 Member Feliz.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER OSWALD FELIZ: I vote I on  
7 all, and I too share the sentiment of our colleagues.  
8 Chairman Treyger, thank you so much for your service.  
9 All of us, including myself are very lucky to have  
10 worked and also have learned from you. So, thank you  
11 so much for everything you've done. We're very lucky  
12 and privileged.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Minority  
14 Leader Borelli.

15 MINORITY LEADER JOE BORELLI: I vote I,  
16 thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Chair  
18 Treyger, shall I call the members one last time?

19 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: Yes, please.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEBRA ROSE: Yes, I'm  
21 here.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
23 Member Rose.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DEBRA ROSE: Thank you.  
25 Thank you, Chair. I just want to say I vote I on all

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2 and I want to thank you so much Chair Treyger. Our  
3 youth and our schools couldn't have a more fierce  
4 fighter for education for everyone. You've proven to  
5 be such an advocate that DOE had to back down. They  
6 lost every battle against you and it's to your credit  
7 and your determination and your love for our young  
8 people. I just want to thank you again. It's been a  
9 pleasure. I've been on Education Committee all 12  
10 years of my tenure, and I am really proud to say that  
11 this has been, you know, such a great experience and  
12 that our young people in our schools are better for  
13 having had Mark Treyger as the Chair of Education.  
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: Council Member Rose,  
16 very emotional for me and I just want my colleagues  
17 and staff and those who are watching this to know  
18 that there are politicians who say a lot in front of  
19 the cameras, but then it's something else when you  
20 have leaders in a budget room or in some cases, a  
21 budget Zoom meeting. Our young people, all the  
22 programs, summer, after school, there is no one who  
23 fights harder for our young people than Debbie Rose,  
24 and she fought tooth and nail in budget negotiations.  
25 That's where the work is, Debbie. It's not in

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2 conferences, it's not on Twitter. It's in the budget  
3 work and you never gave up and we have all of those  
4 critical programs saved and expanded because of you,  
5 Debbie Rose. We are eternally grateful for you.  
6 Thank you. Thank you. I've learned so much from  
7 you, and it's been an honor to work with you as well.  
8 Thank you, Debbie.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DEBRA ROSE: I want to  
10 thank you, Mark. This is definitely a mutual  
11 admiration society because like you mentioned, the  
12 work is done, you know, outside and away from the  
13 cameras and I want to thank you for never just  
14 bloviating and pontificating about what the issues  
15 are and the problems. You always just got down there  
16 and you got your hands dirty. You did the work that  
17 needed to be done and you never backed off. You  
18 never backed off from anyone. You are courageous and  
19 fierce and I love you, and it's been a real pleasure  
20 working with you, and there's no better person that I  
21 would want to go into a fight with than with you  
22 because I know that we will be victorious when we get  
23 together. So, thank you.

24 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: Thank you, Debbie.  
25 God Bless you, thank you so much.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member  
3 Salamanca.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RAFAEL SALAMANCA: I vote  
5 I on all, and I want to, you know, just give thank  
6 you to my Chair, my Education Chair, Chair Treyger.  
7 Chair, you have been an outstanding Education Chair.  
8 You've ensured that black and brown and Latino  
9 communities are heard. The resources that are  
10 necessary, you fought for them, we sat in BNT  
11 together, and I've seen your passion. You really  
12 care about our youth and our school children, and  
13 there was not one battle that you did not stand out,  
14 and I want to say thank you for your leadership.  
15 It's an honor serving under your committee, you, as a  
16 leader of the Education Committee. Thank you.

17 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: I want to thank you,  
18 Chair Salamanca and for those watching, this was  
19 someone who always had our back during the most  
20 difficult of votes, Chair Salamanca always had our  
21 back to protect public school fair student funding,  
22 counselors, social workers, programs, community  
23 schools, single shepherd program. That was Chair  
24 Salamanca who always had our backs in BNT and the  
25 budget room. Chair, it's been an honor to work with

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2 you and serve with you as well. You are an  
3 outstanding public school champion. Forever grateful  
4 to you. Thank you, Chair.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Thank  
6 you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lander.  
8 Council Member Lander? Chair Treyger, by a vote of  
9 15 in the affirmative ... (crosstalk)

10 CHAIR TREYGER: ... I'm sorry.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: I'm sorry. By a vote  
12 of 15 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and  
13 zero abstentions, all items are adopted. There are a  
14 handful of members, I see Council Member Lander.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BRAD LANDER: I apologize.  
16 I appreciate the nudge to unmute and the several of  
17 you who texted me to get over here. I vote I.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Chair  
19 Treyger, I'll just make one quick pass. Council  
20 Member Rodriguez. Council Member Dromm. Council  
21 Member Levin. Council Member Miller. Chair Treyger,  
22 by a vote of 16 in the affirmative, zero in the  
23 negative, and zero abstentions, all items are  
24 adopted.

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2 CHAIR MARK TREYGER: Thank you and thank  
3 you all again. It's been an honor, and this meeting  
4 is adjourned.

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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 30, 2022