

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

Start: 11:38 A. M.

Recess: 11:50 A. M.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Hon. Rita Joseph, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Eric Dinowitz  
Oswald Feliz  
James F. Gennaro  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Shahana K. Hanif  
Kamillah Hanks  
Shekar Krishnan  
Linda Lee  
Farah N. Louis  
Julie Menin  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Lincoln Restler  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Althea V. Stevens  
Sandra Ung

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Vickie Paladino

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Dr. Danielle Beam,  
Executive Director of the Food Education Fund

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2 SERGEANT HOPE: This is a pre-recorded test for  
3 the Committee on Education. Today's date is October  
4 18, 2023. And today's hearing is recorded by Dean  
5 Hope.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [BACKGROUND NOISE] Okay, so,  
7 hold on, hold on, let me... Chair, let me do it  
8 [BACKGROUND NOISE] INAUDIBLE] are we good?

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yes.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Okay, quiet, please! Thank  
11 you, and good morning, and welcome to the New York  
12 City Hybrid Vote on the Committee for Education.  
13 Please silence all electronic devices.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH:

16 [GAVEL SOUND] [GAVELING IN]

17 Good morning, and welcome, everyone, to today's  
18 Committee on Education vote on Resolution 422,  
19 sponsored by, Council Member Vickie Paladino, which  
20 calls upon the New York City Department of Education  
21 to expand career-connected learning programs and  
22 opportunities at all public high schools.

23 The Committee previously heard testimony on this  
24 resolution as part of a June 21st hearing on several  
25 pieces of legislation. The goal of a Resolution 422

1  
2 is to expand access to career-connected learning  
3 programs and opportunities to all interested high  
4 school students attending New York City public  
5 schools. This is especially important considering  
6 that in recent years fewer students are enrolling in  
7 college and are going directly into the workforce  
8 instead.

9       Currently, the New York City Public Schools only  
10 offers career technical education programming in  
11 approximately one-quarter of New York City public  
12 schools. These programs provide high school students  
13 with academic and technical instruction, as well as  
14 work-based learning experiences and an opportunity to  
15 obtain industry recognized certifications. I  
16 encourage all of my colleagues to vote yes on this  
17 important resolution that calls on New York City  
18 Public Schools to expand such programs to all public  
19 schools in New York City.

20       Council Member Paladino, if you would like to  
21 make a statement?

22       I would like to thank my staff, committee, and I  
23 will now turn to the clerk... Council Member?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Thank you, so very much.  
3 I appreciate you all coming here today to vote for  
4 this, what I consider a really important resolution.

5 I worry a great deal about our kids and about  
6 high school, and what directions they are going to  
7 taking. This is personal. This is something that we  
8 are seeing every day evolve. Kids with questions.  
9 Kids not knowing direction. And it is troublesome.  
10 There are many, many different ways for them to make  
11 a living, and I want to say thank you Chair Rita  
12 Joseph and this entire Education Committee for  
13 listening. This is clearly bipartisan and a good  
14 example of what legislation can do to bring us all  
15 together no matter what the party affiliation is.  
16 You know, when I became a city councilperson, that  
17 was my goal, to bring everybody together. I am a  
18 little chocked up. Thirty-seven colleagues have  
19 signed on to this, and I want to say thank you. That  
20 shows the gravity of how important this is. Public  
21 high schools must provide students with vocational  
22 opportunities and options -- high demand career  
23 opportunities such as Culinary Arts, Cosmetology,  
24 Mechanics, Carpentry, Electrical, Heating, Plumbing,  
25 Agriculture. And training in those fields will open

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2 doors of an opportunity to students and ensure good  
3 paying, skilled-based jobs in the future. A  
4 cooperating model which integrates academics and  
5 skilled-based training can be very successful.  
6 Schools can partner with local businesses and/or  
7 colleges to receive training. This is differentiated  
8 learning at its finest. Skilled-based trade  
9 opportunities must be an option for students as an  
10 alternative to traditional elective courses.  
11 Students should be involved with their classroom and  
12 instructional methods. This will improve the  
13 learning experience and the social and emotional  
14 development. I look forward to working with you to  
15 ensure that our students are on track to take part in  
16 career-ready opportunities. Thank you again for this  
17 opportunity.

18 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you, Council Member. I  
19 would like to thank my staff and committee... Thank  
20 my staff and committee staff, and I will now turn to  
21 the clerk for the roll call.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,  
23 Committee Clerk, roll call vote for the Committee on  
24 Education on Resolution 422.

25 Chair Joseph?

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: [NOT MIC'D] Aye.

[INAUDIBLE]

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [ABSENT]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: [ABSENT]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: [ABSENT]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: [ABSENT]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: [NO RESPONSE]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye, congratulations.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

Council Member Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye, congratulations.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Thank You.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I want to say

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congratulations, but this one is a common sense one.

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Thank you, congratulations. Aye

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Restler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye, congrats.

13

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Schulman

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COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: [ABSENT]

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye, and congratulations

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on continuing to push forward in highlighting the

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need for workforce development in our city for our

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young people. And congratulations on your

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resolution.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

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COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

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2 With a vote of 13 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
3 negative, and no abstentions, the resolution has been  
4 adopted by the Committee.

5 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Congratulations, Council  
6 Member.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Thank you, very much.

8 [APPLAUSE]

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: We will now turn to public  
10 testimony. We will be limiting public testimony today  
11 to three minutes for in person panelists. Please  
12 come up to the table once your name has been called.

13 Our first panel will be Danielle Beam, Dr.  
14 Danielle Beam, please make your way to the front. You  
15 may begin your testimony.

16 DR. DANIELLE BEAM: Thank you.

17 Good Morning, my name is Dr. Danielle Beam and I  
18 am the Executive Director of the Food Education Fund.  
19 FEF was founded 15 years ago in conjunction with the  
20 Charter for Food and Finance High School, a CTE  
21 culinary school in Hell's Kitchen. FEF along with  
22 Food and Finance High School serves students, 98  
23 percent of students identifying as ethnically diverse  
24 and 85 percent qualifying as Title 1, most of whom  
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2 travel more than an hour and a half each way to  
3 attend this school.

4 FEF provides experiential learning and industry  
5 access to students throughout their high school  
6 career. Now we support over a dozen schools in a  
7 variety of ways across New York City. We offer a  
8 suite of year-long programming leading up to our  
9 workforce development training and career placement.  
10 High School seniors are enrolled in a 6-week course  
11 of intensive workforce development prior to FEF  
12 assessing and pairing these students with our  
13 industry partners - made up of more than 60  
14 restaurant and hospitality groups across New York  
15 City. These students are paid interns. Four out of  
16 five interns are then offered an opportunity to  
17 extend their role at the conclusion of their  
18 internship.

19 We firmly believe that students should be  
20 prepared to make informed postsecondary decisions  
21 that are the right fit for them. The emphasis Food  
22 and Finance has placed on the access to the holistic  
23 development of their students through experiential  
24 learning, specifically outsourcing access through FEF  
25 to enhance the curriculum in place, has been crucial

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2 to the overall success of their student population.  
3 Ninety-eight percent of Food and Finance high school  
4 students graduate within 4 years with nearly 200 *paid*  
5 hours of meaningful internship experiences and up to  
6 500 hours of total FEF programming throughout their  
7 high school career.

8       It takes a village to support student success  
9 which is why partnerships like Food and Finance and  
10 Food Education Fund are essential. The school system  
11 can provide ample enrichment during the school day,  
12 and the added benefit of immersive after-school  
13 programs, tied into the classroom curriculum,  
14 provides a stronger student support network and  
15 improves like likelihood of student success,  
16 especially as students consider how to navigate  
17 postsecondary decisions.

18       Food Education Fund endorses Resolution 422,  
19 because we have seen firsthand how access to industry  
20 leaders and intentional programming in schools and  
21 *after* school better prepares students for college and  
22 career readiness, amplifying their leadership  
23 potential and increasing their social and economic  
24 mobility. Thank you.  
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2 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: What kind of certification  
3 is there once the student has finished with the  
4 program?

5 DR. DANIELLE BEAM: So, in addition to the paid  
6 internship exposure, students also graduate with  
7 their food handlers license. And this provides them  
8 access to entry level positions across Hospitality.

9 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Nice. Could you give us  
10 examples of some of their career paths? Where do  
11 some of these students end up?

12 DR. DANIELLE BEAM: For sure. So, uh, we actually  
13 celebrated the 15th year of the FEF most recently at  
14 our gala. And one of the students in attendance is  
15 Romeo Melpaca (phonetic). Romeo was a first  
16 generation college student at Food and Finance High  
17 School who did an internship at Lilia and Misi, which  
18 is part of Grovehouse Hospitality. And at 21 years  
19 old, he is now the sous chef at Lilia making \$75,000  
20 a year.

21 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Nice! There you go. So,  
22 that's proof in the pudding that this works.

23 DR. DANIELLE BEAM: The proof is in the pudding.  
24  
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2 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: That's right. Well, thank you  
3 so much for all that you do. Colleagues, any  
4 questions?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: [NOT MIC'D] [INAUDIBLE]  
6 I am telling you this is the way to go. This is  
7 definitely the answer for so many kids.

8 DR. DANIELLE BEAM: We believe that as well.

9 Thank you, thank you all.

10 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you so much.

11 DR. DANIELLE BEAM: And congratulations.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Quiet, please! Quiet, please!

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [BACKGROUND NOISE] [INAUDIBLE]

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Are we rolling? Continuation  
15 roll call for the Committee on Education Resolution  
16 422, Council Member Hanif?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

19 Final vote, Resolution 422 has been adopted by  
20 the Committee with 14 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
21 negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: And we will close it out  
23 here.

24 [GAVEL SOUND] [GAVELING OUT]

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 October 24, 2023