

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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December 6, 2023
Start: 10:38 a.m.
Recess: 10:47 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Eric Dinowitz, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Oswald Feliz
Inna Vernikov

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Higher Education, recorded
4 on December 6, 2023, in the Council Chambers.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
6 welcome to the Committee on Higher Education.

7 At this time, we ask if you could please
8 place phones on vibrate or silent mode.

9 Thank you.

10 Chair, we are ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: [GAVEL] Good
12 morning. I am Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Chair of
13 the Committee on Higher Education and a proud CUNY
14 alum.

15 Today, the Committee will vote on
16 Resolution number 580 calling on the City University
17 of New York to ensure that all campuses award an
18 appropriate number of college credits to students who
19 earned a New York State Seal of Biliteracy in high
20 school and, where required, accept the Seal as
21 fulfillment of any foreign language requirement. This
22 legislation was previously heard at a joint hearing
23 of the Committee on Higher Education and the
24 Committee on Education on October 18, 2023, along
25 with its companion Resolution number 579 calling on

2 the New York City Department of Education to ensure
3 that New York State Seal of Biliteracy is awarded in
4 all New York City public high schools to eligible
5 students. I am proud to have introduced these two
6 resolutions which are based on research and advocacy
7 done by two Hunter College students, Adriadna
8 Pavlides-Sanchez and Isabella Grullon, whom I
9 mentored earlier this year. These resolutions are to
10 their credit, and it my hope that these two
11 resolutions together will give a head start in
12 college to many of our New York City students who are
13 proficient in world languages, often their first
14 languages, in addition to English when they leave
15 high school and enter CUNY. We want those students to
16 be awarded college credits for their world language
17 proficiencies. That's a win/win/win/win for all of
18 us.

19 I want to acknowledge the Committee
20 Members who are present, Council Members Barron,
21 Brewer, and Vernikov.

22 I would like to thank my Staff as well as
23 the Committee Staff and others who worked on
24 preparing this resolution including my Director of
25 Legislation, Adam Staropoli; my Chief-of-Staff Jenna

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2 Klaus; Committee Counsel Sahar Moazami; Regina Paul,
3 the Committee's Policy Analyst who wrote the final
4 versions of both resolutions; and Florentine Kabore,
5 Unit Head in Finance.

6 We are ready now for a vote. Billy,
7 please take it away.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
9 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
10 Roll call vote Committee on Higher Education on
11 Resolution 580. Chair Dinowitz.

12 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.
14 Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye. [SPEAKING
18 FOREIGN LANGUAGE]

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
22 vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the
23 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted.

24 We will leave the roll open at the
25 request of the Chair.

2 Continuation roll call Committee on
3 Higher Education, Resolution 580. Council Member
4 Feliz.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
7 vote is now five in the affirmative, zero in the
8 negative, no abstentions.

9 Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

10 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Thank you, Billy.

11 [GAVEL] Hearing is closed.

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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 11, 2023