

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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August 15, 2024  
Start: 11:06 a.m.  
Recess: 11:09 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz  
James F. Gennaro  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Kamillah Hanks  
Shekar Krishnan  
Linda Lee  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Althea V. Stevens

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Keith Powers  
Crystal Hudson  
Gale A. Brewer

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Education on 08-15-2024,  
4 located in the Committee Room, recorded by James  
5 Marino.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and  
7 welcome to the New York City hybrid vote on the  
8 Committee on Education.

9 Please silence all electronic devices.  
10 Chair, we are ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: [GAVEL] Good morning  
12 and welcome everyone to today's Committee on  
13 Education vote on Resolution No. 372, sponsored by  
14 myself, calling on the New York City Department of  
15 Education to provide support for a student newspaper  
16 at every high school. I am proud to have sponsored  
17 this bill along with 20 of my Colleagues. The  
18 Committee previously heard testimony on the  
19 Resolution on June 18, 2024. There is a significant  
20 and troubling disparity in access to student  
21 journalism opportunities across our city's high  
22 schools.

23 A 2022 report by Baruch College found  
24 that only 27 percent of non-charter public high  
25 schools in New York have a student newspaper. The

2 disparity becomes even more pronounced when taking  
3 into account socioeconomic status among the 100 non-  
4 charter public high schools with the highest poverty  
5 rate; a mere 7 percent have a student newspaper.  
6 Compare this to 62 percent of the 50 non-charter high  
7 schools with the lowest poverty rate, and 100 percent  
8 of our specialized high schools, all of which have  
9 student newspapers.

10           These statistics are not just numbers.  
11 They reflect a deeper issue of inequity in access to  
12 opportunities that can profoundly shape a student's  
13 educational experience and future prospects. Lack of  
14 a student newspaper stripped many students,  
15 particularly black and brown students, of the  
16 opportunity to express their ideas, showcase their  
17 creativity, and develop critical thinking skills.  
18 Student journalism is essential for fostering a more  
19 representative pipeline of professional journalists  
20 who reflect the diversity of our city. By calling on  
21 New York City public schools to support a student  
22 newspaper at every high school, we are taking a  
23 critical step toward ensuring that all of our  
24 students have the opportunity to contribute to a  
25 future where democratic freedoms are protected,

2 government accountability is held, and our society is  
3 better informed.

4 I would also like to shout out Youth  
5 Journalism Coalition who's here today, and they are  
6 the inspiration behind this Resolution. Thank you for  
7 being here.

8 I would like to thank my Staff and  
9 Committee Staff, and I will now turn to the Clerk to  
10 call the roll.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
12 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.  
13 Roll call vote. Committee on Education, Resolution  
14 372. Chair Joseph.

15 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: I vote aye, and  
18 I want to acknowledge my interns, one of whom was on  
19 the Journalism Student Committee, Salma Baksha and  
20 Jackson O'Brien and, with that, I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
22 you. Louis. Gennaro.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

3 Gutiérrez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye. Congrats.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

6 Hanks.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye. Congrats.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

13 Sanchez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
18 vote of 10 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
19 and no abstentions, Resolution has been adopted by  
20 the Committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: And this ends our  
22 vote. [GAVEL]

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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 August 21, 2024