

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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February 13, 2025
Start: 10:28 a.m.
Recess: 10:39 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz
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: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Education, located in the
4 Committee Room, recorded on February 13, 2025, by Pat
5 Kurzyna. Check, check.

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

9 At this time, please silence all
10 electronics and do not approach the dais. I repeat,
11 please do not approach the dais.

12 Any further questions or concerns,
13 contact the Sergeant.

14 Chair, you may begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: [GAVEL] Good morning,
16 and welcome to today's vote in the Education
17 Committee. I'm Rita Joseph, Committee Chair. In a
18 little bit, we'll be voting on two pieces of
19 important legislation. The first bill proposed,
20 Introduction No. 432-A, sponsored by Council Member
21 Pierina Ana Sanchez, is a local law to amend
22 Administrative Code of the City of New York in
23 relation to distributing information about after-
24 school programs. More specifically, it will require
25 New York City Department of Education, a.k.a. DOE, in

2 consultation with DYCD to develop materials that
3 include comprehensive information about after-school
4 programs available at each middle and high school.
5 There are more than 900 programs that service K-12
6 across the five boroughs, yet advocates have reported
7 that students and families have faced challenges
8 learning about them. Making such information more
9 accessible will provide students with valuable
10 opportunities for academic enrichment, skill
11 development, and social engagement outside regular
12 school hours. It will also potentially improve school
13 attendance and academic achievement.

14 The second bill is Proposed Intro No.
15 1057-A, sponsored by myself. It is a local law to
16 amend Administrative Code of New York City in
17 relation to student journalism programmings at city
18 high schools. More specifically, this bill would
19 require DOE to submit an annual report detailing
20 students' journalism programmings in all city high
21 schools, including information on the number of
22 journalism courses, clubs, and publications at each
23 school, and the number of staff supporting journalism
24 courses. It will also require DOE to distribute
25 information to all high school students at the start

2 of each school year about available journalism clubs,
3 publications, along with information on how to
4 participate. This information would also be made
5 available on DOE's website. A 2022 research report by
6 Baruch College found that overall high schools with
7 high four-year graduation rates are more likely to
8 have a student newspaper than schools with the lowest
9 four-year graduation rates. A school newspaper
10 provides students with a platform to express their
11 ideas, creativity, while also helping to develop
12 critical thinking skills. Student journalism
13 advocates assert that student journalism programs are
14 essential to helping students develop writing skills,
15 build community, hold school leaders accountable, and
16 develop a more racially and socioeconomically
17 representative pipeline of professional journalists.
18 Participation in a student newspaper not only expands
19 a student's knowledge and ability, but also
20 contributes to a future of democratic freedoms,
21 government accountability, and a more news-savvy and
22 better-informed society.

23 Both Proposed Introductions are a small
24 step that seeks to provide our public students with

2 greater opportunities and foster well-rounded,
3 informed New Yorkers.

4 Thank you to the Committee Staff, Nadia
5 Jean-François, Chloë Rivera, Grace Amato, for their
6 work on today's vote, and Joel Desouve and Chief-of-
7 Staff Juvanie Piquant.

8 Before we move the vote, we will hear
9 remarks from Council Member Sanchez on the Proposed
10 Intro. Number 432-A. Council Member Sanchez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Chair.
12 Today, the Council is making strides to make sure
13 that one million young people in the city can access
14 opportunities that enrich their studies. Intro. 432
15 requires the Department of Education, in consultation
16 with the Department of Youth and Community
17 Development, to distribute information about after-
18 school programs to families at every public K-12
19 elementary, middle, and high school. This includes
20 any program that's funded by these agencies and will
21 include key information to families, including a list
22 of after-school programs offered at each school,
23 eligibility requirements, costs to participate, if
24 any, and steps to apply. Schools will be required to
25 distribute these resources in the school's main

2 office, via email, and on the school's website, and
3 on any online portal for students and their families.
4 This will start this fall, and it will make it easier
5 than ever for students to access the resources that
6 they need to thrive. In a city as well-resourced as
7 ours, there's no excuse for any student, parent, or
8 guardian to miss out just for lack of information. I
9 pride myself in allocating funds to ensure every
10 school building in our district hosts an after-school
11 enrichment program, and with this piece of
12 legislation, our parents will now know about them.
13 Thank you so much for your support, Chair, and with
14 that, I vote, well, I'm not voting yet, just my
15 remarks, okay, thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you, Council
17 Member. I'd also like to recognize Council Member
18 Louis, online or remote, and also recognize Council
19 Member Gennaro, no, he's not remote, Council Member
20 Hanif, Krishnan, Lee, Narcisse, and Schulman. Did I
21 miss anyone? No. Oh, and Council Member Hanks. Oh,
22 and Council Member Dinowitz.

23 I will now turn it over to Committee
24 Clerk to take the vote.

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION 7

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good

3 morning. Apologies. William Martin, Committee Clerk.

4 Roll call vote, Committee on Education. Both items

5 are coupled. Chair Joseph.

6 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

8 you. Louis.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

11 you. Gennaro. Dinowitz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

14 you. Gutiérrez. Hanif.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sanchez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
3 you. Schulman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

6 With a vote of 10 in the affirmative, zero in the
7 negative, and no abstentions, both items have been
8 adopted by the Committee.

9 Sergeants, we're still rolling?

10 Sergeants?

11 Continuation Roll Call, Committee on
12 Education. Council Member Stevens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
15 you. Vote is now at 11 in the affirmative, zero in
16 the negative, and no abstention.

17 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: [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 February 14, 2025