

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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December 19, 2011
Start: 10:35 a.m.
Recess: 10:53 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:

ROBERT JACKSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Charles Barron
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
Jessica S. Lappin
Albert Vann
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Daniel Dromm
Karen Koslowitz
Stephen T. Levin
Deborah L. Rose
Mark S. Weprin

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vincent Ignizio

David G. Greenfield

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here we go,
3 the Mic is now on. Are we good? Okay. Welcome
4 everybody. My name is Lew Fidler. I'm going to
5 be chairing the Education Committee until Robert
6 Jackson gets here. We have two items that are on
7 for a vote today. The first is Intro 563-A,
8 sponsored by Council Member Ignizio, a local law
9 to amend the New York City Charter in relation to
10 the notification of information related to PCBs in
11 schools. And the second is Intro 566-A, sponsored
12 by Council Member Levin, a local law to amend the
13 New York City Charter in relation to the
14 notification of information related to PCBs in
15 schools as well. Do either--well, we are joined
16 here today by Council Members Levin, Ignizio,
17 Barron, Koslowitz, Rose, Chin, Cabrera and Dromm,
18 and Greenfield in the back. Weprin. All right,
19 you guys are going to sit in the back, you know.
20 Foster. Anybody else? Did I miss anybody else?
21 Okay. Council Member Ignizio, do you want to make
22 a comment, followed by Council Member Levin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, thank
24 you. Thank you Mr. Acting Chair. I just wanted
25 to show my appreciation to both the staff that

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2 helped us work on the PCB legislation and the
3 Speaker. This has been something I've worked on
4 for several months with the staff and with my
5 colleague, Council Member Levin, to really create
6 the most significant PCB legislation that the
7 country currently has. New York City, once again,
8 is leading the way with PCB remediation and
9 bringing it to the floor. And working with my
10 colleague, Steve Levin and I, we are really are
11 grateful to both the Mayor and the Speaker's
12 Office to push this package of legislation
13 forward. And we believe it will be the forerunner
14 for PCB legislation throughout this country. So,
15 thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Council
17 Member Levin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
19 Mr. Acting Chair. I just want to echo the
20 sentiments expressed by my colleague, Vinnie
21 Ignizio. I want to thank the speaker, her staff,
22 the legislative staff, particularly Laura Popa.
23 And also thank the administration for working with
24 us on this. Echoing the comments made by Council
25 Member Ignizio, this is very aggressive

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2 legislation, and it is going to ensure the public
3 has the ability to know what is going on in our
4 schools, what we are exposed to. And with that
5 knowledge will come the power to continue press
6 for expedited remediation of PCBs in our schools,
7 so that our kids and our teachers and
8 administrators and school staff are not exposed to
9 these dangerous chemicals one day longer than is
10 necessary. These two pieces of legislation are
11 going to ensure that we know exactly what is going
12 on, and that will ensure our ability to continue
13 to do a better job. But I want to thank Chair
14 Jackson and my colleague, Vincent Ignizio, for
15 really leading the way on this, as well as the
16 Speaker. Thank you very much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: We've been
18 joined by Council Members Garodnick and Lappin.
19 Unless anyone has anything else to say, I'll call--
20 -oh, Council Member Barron?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well, I
22 support both of these pieces of legislation, the--
23 and it makes it--it's very difficult for me to
24 support anything that he puts forward in the City
25 Council because of our politics. But anyway, my

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2 real concern is the--and I don't think this
3 legislation speaks to it, is the ten years, you
4 know, the plan that's on the table to actually
5 rectify that. I mean our children could die in
6 ten years trying to get the Board of Education,
7 Department of Education to really rectify it. So
8 while I support both of these legislation--I think
9 it's certainly a move in the right direction--
10 we've got to do something to make them clean up
11 this toxic--these things could really, really,
12 this could really damage our children. And I
13 think there's a ten-year plan on the table for
14 cleanup, which is absurd. But I congratulate both
15 of my colleagues on these pieces of legislation
16 and I support it wholeheartedly.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you,
18 Council Member. Anybody else? If not, I'd as the
19 clerk to call the roll on both items coupled.

20 KEVIN PIN: Kevin Pin, Committee
21 Clerk, roll call on the Committee on Education,
22 Intros 563-A and 566-A. Council Member Fidler?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

24 KEVIN PIN: Barron.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

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2 KEVIN PIN: Foster.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.
4 KEVIN PIN: Garodnick.
5 CHAIRPERSON GARODNICK: Aye.
6 KEVIN PIN: Lappin.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.
8 KEVIN PIN: Cabrera.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.
10 KEVIN PIN: Chin.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.
12 KEVIN PIN: Dromm.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
14 KEVIN PIN: Koslowitz.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.
16 KEVIN PIN: Levin.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
18 KEVIN PIN: Rose.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
20 KEVIN PIN: Weprin.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.
22 KEVIN PIN: Greenfield.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.
24 KEVIN PIN: Ignizio.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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2 KEVIN PIN: By a vote of 14 in the
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
4 the items have been adopted. Members, please sign
5 the Committee Reports.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I'll hold
7 the vote open for as long as the rules permit.
8 And otherwise this Committee Meeting is adjourned.

9 [pause]

10 KEVIN PIN: Jackson.

11 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: I vote Aye on
12 all. I'm going to keep the vote open until 11:00
13 a.m. Thank you.

14 KEVIN PIN: Vote stands at 15 in
15 the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no
16 abstentions.

17 [pause]

18 KEVIN PIN: Vann.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all, I
20 think. Aye on all.

21 KEVIN PIN: Vote stands at 16 in
22 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
23 abstentions.

24 [pause]

25 KEVIN PIN: Final vote on the

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Committee on Education, 16 in the affirmative, 0

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in the negative, no abstentions.

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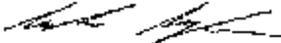
CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: This hearing

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is hereby closed at 10:53 a.m.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature 

Date 1/4/2012