

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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May 26, 2015  
Start: 10:38 a.m.  
Recess: 11:12 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E:  
DANIEL DROMM  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Margaret S. Chin  
Stephen T. Levin  
Deborah L. Rose  
Mark S. Weprin  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Andy L. King  
Inez D. Barron  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Antonio Reynoso  
Mark Treyger

[gavel]

[background comment]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, good morning everyone. My name is Daniel Dromm and I'm chair of the Education Committee. We're here today on Tuesday, May 26th at 10:35.. 10:37 a.m. to vote on two pieces of legislation; one is Int. 511-A, and the second is a Resolution No. 453.

Proposed Int. No. 511-A would require the Department of Education to submit to the City Council and post on its website an annual report regarding student demographics and the DOE's efforts to encourage diversity within schools. The bill would require the DOE to report the following demographic data for students in grades kindergarten through 8th for each community school district, each school within a district and each program within a school. The total number and percentage of students who:

1. receive special education services; 2. those how are eligible for English language learners;
3. receive free or reduced-price lunch; 4. reside in temporary housing, 5. are attending a school outside the community school district. This information would be further disaggregated by grade, race,

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2 ethnicity, gender and primary home language for  
3 students who are ELLs, or English language learners.

4           The bill would require the same  
5 information to be reported for students in the high  
6 school grades. For Pre-kindergarten, the DOE would  
7 be required to report the number of students in Pre-  
8 kindergarten programs and their race, ethnicity and  
9 gender.

10           Proposed 511-A would also require  
11 information regarding performance level on the state  
12 math and English language arts exam for students in  
13 grades 3-8, as well as information pertaining to the  
14 admissions criteria used by the school or special  
15 program.

16           The DOE shall submit the annual report on  
17 demographics of students in kindergarten through  
18 grades 12 to the Council not later than December 31,  
19 2015 and by November 1st of each year thereafter.

20           The DOE annual report on the demographics  
21 of students in Pre-kindergarten programs operated by  
22 the DOE should be submitted to the Council not later  
23 than November 1, 2016 and by November 1st annually  
24 thereafter.

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2 Proposed Int. 511-A would also require  
3 the DOE to report on any efforts during the preceding  
4 school year to diversify the student body in its  
5 schools and special programs, including strategic  
6 site selection of new schools and special programs,  
7 considering demographics of neighborhoods when  
8 drawing attendant zones and targeted outreach and  
9 recruitment efforts.

10 I am a supporter of this piece of  
11 legislation and in fact am also a co-sponsor and urge  
12 my colleagues to vote for its passage.

13 In addition, we'll be hearing -- excuse  
14 me -- we will be voting on Resolution 453, which is a  
15 resolution calling upon the New York City Department  
16 of Education to officially recognize the importance  
17 and benefits of school diversity and to set it as a  
18 priority when making decisions regarding admissions  
19 policies and practices, creations of new schools,  
20 school rezoning and other pertinent decisions and  
21 commit to having a strategy in each district for  
22 overcoming impediments to school diversity. I am  
23 supportive of this legislation as well; I feel that  
24 ensuring that the Department of Education has this as  
25 a priority in addition to the reporting requirements

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that are going to be contained in Int. 511-A will ensure that we have a more diverse, more equal school system. And with that I'm going to recognize my colleagues, Council Member Andy King who is here, Council Member Debi Rose, Council Member Mark Levine, Council Member Chaim Deutsch, Council Member Margaret Chin, Council Member Alan Maisel, Council Member Dan Garodnick and Council Member Steve Levin, and I'm going to ask the clerk to call the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on Education. Chair Dromm.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions, items have been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. I'd like to congratulate Council Member Brad Lander, who unfortunately cannot be here with us this morning; he's attending to other matters regarding the "carwasheros," and that's a valiant and important cause as well, and also to Council Member Torres for Res 453.

And with that I'm gonna ask that the vote be held for another 20 minutes or so and I see we are now joined by Council Member Reynoso, who will vote now.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now currently stands at 10.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. And I ask that  
3 the vote be kept open for another 20 minutes. Thank  
4 you. Thank you everyone, plea...

5 [pause]

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gentile.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now currently  
9 stands at 11 in the affirmative.

10 [background comments]

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, so we're still  
12 gonna hold this vote open for about 15 more minutes  
13 or so, and then we'll conclude there, we'll adjourn  
14 after that, so it's about 11:02, so about 11:17 we  
15 hope to conclude. Thank you.

16 [pause]

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,  
19 Mr. Chair. I just wanna explain my vote.

20 [background comment] I vote aye and I just wanna say  
21 I'm a little disappointed that Res 442 fell out; I  
22 think it would've given black and Latino students  
23 more measures of being evaluated for admission to the  
24 specialized high school, but I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote Committee on Education now stands at 12 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on Education; Council Member Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Vote aye.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on Education is now 13 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

[background comment]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, and with that, this meeting is adjourned.

[gavel]

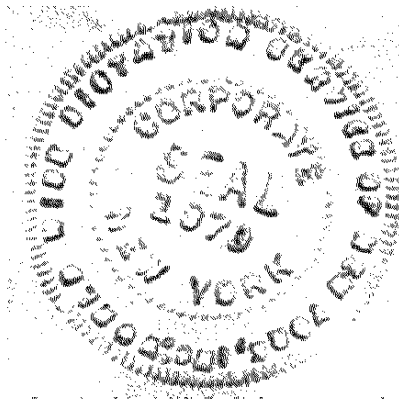
Thank you very much.

[background comment]



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 May 28, 2015