

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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October 27, 2015  
Start: 11:12 a.m.  
Recess: 11:45 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - 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  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Ben Kallos  
Andy L. King  
Inez D. Barron  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Antonio Reynoso  
Mark Treyger  
Elizabeth S. Crowley

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Laurie A. Cumbo

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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2 SERGEANT OF ARMS: Quiet please.

3 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good morning  
4 everyone. My name is Daniel Dromm and I'm the  
5 Chairperson of the Education Committee of the New  
6 York City Council. I want to welcome everyone to  
7 today's hearings; we're going to do two things, we're  
8 gonna do it in two parts. We have a vote on Council  
9 Member Crowley's legislation and that's going to be  
10 first and then we will go into the hearing; we'll  
11 take a very short break and then we'll go into the  
12 hearing on sex education in the public schools.

13 So right now I'm going to start with the  
14 legislation from.. [background comment] hold on one  
15 second.. 644-B, introduced by Council Member Crowley  
16 and it is a Local Law to amend the Administrative  
17 Code of the City of New York in relation to requiring  
18 the Department of Education to report information on  
19 physical education in New York City schools. And let  
20 me congratulate Council Member Crowley and also thank  
21 Council Member Crowley for allowing me to be second  
22 on this piece of legislation. But this was a vital  
23 piece of legislation that we heard, I believe it was  
24 last June, if I'm not mistaken, and as an outcome of  
25 that we were able to work with the administration on

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2 getting a number of new physical education teachers  
3 and physical education programs put into the budget  
4 and so the results of your hard work are already seen  
5 and noticed and we look forward to getting the  
6 reporting back on this bill as well. So thank you  
7 Council Member Crowley and I know that you also  
8 wanted to make a statement before we go to the vote.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you  
10 Chairman Dromm, thank you for your leadership on this  
11 bill and to all the members of the Education  
12 Committee; I'm pleased that we are voting on this  
13 physical education reporting bill that will  
14 ultimately enhance physical education programs in our  
15 city schools. Currently the Department of Education  
16 does not report on whether or not a school complies  
17 with the State physical education requirements and so  
18 we as elected leaders or parents have no idea whether  
19 their children are receiving the public physical  
20 education that they deserve.

21 I remember being frustrated as a public  
22 school parent and this bill is just simply about  
23 fairness; too many of our children are being denied  
24 the physical education that they deserve; students in  
25 low-income areas are disproportionately affected by

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2 this and as a result we are seeing an increase in  
3 childhood and teen obesity; physical education is a  
4 critical step in combating this. This bill  
5 establishes a comprehensive reporting requirement  
6 which ranges from the amount of gym time students  
7 receive at each grade level and information about the  
8 physical spaces that they are using for physical  
9 education, and just how many full- and part-time  
10 certified physical education instructors are employed  
11 at each school in our city.

12 I'd like to thank again Council Member  
13 Dromm for his leadership; I'd like to also thank City  
14 Comptroller who recently published a report on how  
15 many kids in our city just are not getting the  
16 physical education that they deserve, as well as all  
17 the advocacy groups, from Physical Education for All  
18 Coalition, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest,  
19 the American Heart Association and so many more. So  
20 I'd also like to thank Committee Counsel Aysha  
21 Schomburg for her help on this legislation as well.  
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you Council  
24 Member Crowley. And with that I would now like to  
25 ask the Clerk, Matt Distefano to call the vote.

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matthew Distefano,  
Committee Clerk, Committee on Education, roll call  
vote on Intro. No. 644-B. Council Member Dromm.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
want to commend the sponsor of this bill, it's very  
important legislation and I just want to ask also  
that I would be added as a sponsor; I don't know how  
my name is not on this one, because having served as  
an elementary school principal I know how critical  
physical education is and I was one of those who made  
sure that I had a fully certified phys. ed. teacher

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2 in my building so that all of my classes could have  
3 that kind of instruction. I vote aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Kudos to the  
11 bill sponsor; I would like to have my name added as  
12 well and I vote aye. Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the  
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
15 the bill has been adopted.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 'Kay and I'd like to  
17 ask the clerk to keep the vote open for another 20  
18 minutes for those who may arrive a little late so  
19 that they can vote as well and if we're in the  
20 hearing, I will interrupt the hearing and go back to  
21 the roll call for the vote at that point.

22 Alright. And with that we're going to  
23 now begin to move into the hearing on sex education  
24 in the schools, but I think that the media people  
25



1  
2 need a moment to switch over, so we'll just wait  
3 until we get a signal from them.

4 [pause]

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...clerk to call the  
6 vote.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on Education,  
8 continuation of the roll call vote on Intro. 644-B.  
9 Council Member Deutsch.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Levine.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now stands at 11  
14 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
15 abstentions.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 'Kay, thank you very  
17 much Mr. Clerk and with that I'm gonna close out that  
18 vote [gavel] and we're gonna switch back to the  
19 hearing and then we will swear in our... [background  
20 comment] yeah, okay, I'm gonna switch in our guests.

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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 October 30, 2015