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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

November 14, 2019
Start: 10:23 a.m.
Recess: 10:50 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: MARK TREYGER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL
- INEZ D. BARRON
- JOSEPH C. BORELLI
- JUSTIN L. BRANNAN
- ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
- DANIEL DROMM
- BARRY S. GRODENCHIK
- BEN KALLOS
- BRAD S. LANDER
- STEPHEN T. LEVIN
- FARAH N. LOUIS
- I. DANEEK MILLER
- YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
- DEBORAH L. ROSE
- RAFAEL SALAMANCA, JR.
- ERIC A. ULRICH

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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Okay, good morning.

I am Council Member Mark Treyger, Chair of the Education Committee. We're convened here this morning for a vote on a package of diversity bills aimed at addressing segregation in our school system. These bills include proposed Introduction 1547-A sponsored by Council Member Lander, proposed Introduction 1550-A sponsored by Public Advocate Williams, proposed Introduction 1552-B sponsored by Council Member Rivera and proposed Introduction 1554-B which I am a proud sponsor of. I will talk more about these bills after some brief opening remarks and I would like to recognize the members of the committee who are here; Council Member Brannan, Council Member Levin, Council Member Rosenthal, Council Member Ampry-Samuel, Council Member Louis, congratulations for the 100th time Council Member Louis as well, Council Member Lander, Council Member Kallos, Council Member Rose, Council Member Grodenchik and Council Member Salamanca, and Council Member Rodriguez and I'd like to recognize Council Member Lander for, for brief remarks.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Can I... can I...

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2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: We'll just quickly
3 recognize Council Member Kallos for his vote today
4 and then we'll hear from Council, Council Member
5 Lander.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Council Member
7 Kallos?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye on
9 all, thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Council Member
11 Lander?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Mr.
13 Chair, I appreciate it as always and appreciate your
14 leadership on this issue and in this committee. James
15 Baldwin taught us that not everything that is faced
16 can be changed but that nothing can be changed until
17 it is faced and after many years of willfully
18 ignoring the reality of segregated schools we're
19 finally starting to face it and having the data
20 really matters. In district 15 an honest look at
21 segregated enrollment patterns help us move forward
22 this year with a very ambitious integration effort
23 that is working in ways I am so proud of and actually
24 the data on that is going to coming out very soon and
25 the results are just great but around the rest of the

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2 city we have such a long way to go. So, the
3 legislation we are passing today will explain... expand
4 the reporting of school demographics to include data
5 by class, year, with comparisons between an
6 individual's school and it's district as a whole, it
7 expands the school diversity accountability act which
8 this council passed back in 2014 and together this
9 expanded school diversity accountability act will
10 help us to track the progress we're making to build
11 more equity in our schools and our classrooms and
12 foster the kinds of diverse learning environments
13 that combat the long standing harms of segregation
14 and genuinely create environments that help all of
15 our kids to learn and thrive. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you, thank
17 you Council Member Lander. We've also been joined by
18 Council Member Dromm, that's... thank you so much
19 Council Member for being here. New York City is a
20 city that prides itself in its diversity, however
21 such diversity is not evident when one examines our
22 school buildings and classrooms. Our school system as
23 mentioned is one of the most segregated school
24 systems in the entire country. Segregation puts all
25 of our students at a disadvantage. As research shows

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2 at schools that are racially and socioeconomically
3 integrated provide academic and cognitive benefits,
4 social emotional and civic benefits as well as
5 economic benefits. Advocates, students, teachers and
6 parents have right... rightfully called on the DOE to
7 implement initiatives and policies to integrate our
8 public schools. The council is also committed to
9 ensuring that DOE is effectively addressing school
10 segregation in our system. We understand that school
11 integration not only has to happen with community
12 members in mind but also include members... community
13 members in the process. This is why this body has
14 introduced the package of diversity bills that holds
15 DOE accountable for its diversity efforts and holds
16 them accountable for taking a grass roots approach to
17 address school segregation. As I mentioned, today we
18 are voting on the following legislation as part of
19 the Council's diversity package. As we just heard
20 Introduction 1547-A sponsored by Council Member
21 Lander would require the DOE to expand its current
22 student demographic reporting and to provide... and to
23 provide data by grade level. The bill also requires
24 DOE to report on a side by side comparison of the
25 racial and ethnic demographics of each school or

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2 special program with the racial and ethnic
3 demographics of the larger attendance zone in
4 community school district. Proposed Introduction
5 1550-A sponsored by Public Advocate Williams codifies
6 the Mayoral school diversity advisory group which was
7 established in 2017. The advisory group would be made
8 up of council appointments, a public advocate
9 appointment and mayoral appointments. The advisory
10 group would be tasked with examining factors as they
11 relate to school diversity and would be required to
12 issue an annual report to the Mayor, the Speaker and
13 Public Advocate. Annual report starting in 2021 would
14 include a look back on the implementation and
15 recommendations from prior reports. Proposed
16 Introduction 1552-B sponsored by Council Member
17 Rivera would mandate the establishment of district
18 diversity working groups in each community school.
19 These working groups would work to facilitate the
20 creation and publishing of public input integration
21 plans in every school district. The working groups
22 would be made up of students, parents, teachers,
23 principals, administrators and community advocates.
24 Issues that would be addressed include but are not
25 limited... are not, not limited to admission policies,

1 transfer trends, language access, and transportation.

2 And finally, my bill, proposed Introduction 1554-B

3 would amend Local Law number 59 of 2015 and work...

4 would require the DOE to report on the demographics

5 of school staff including leadership, teaching staff,

6 and other professional and paraprofessional staff.

7 The required reporting would include gender, race or

8 ethnicity, length of employment at the school of, of

9 employment and years of experience in that position.

10 Last month as part of the... part of this package the

11 Council also introduced... also passed, I'm sorry,

12 Introduction number 1541-B sponsored by the Speaker

13 which would require the establishment of a task force

14 to issue recommendations regarding the admission

15 standards for specialized high schools. I want to

16 thank the committee staff Malcolm Butehorn, Jan

17 Atwell, Kalima Johnson, and Chelsea Baytemur. I also

18 want to thank my staff Anna Scaife and Vanessa Ogle.

19 I'll now turn to the Clerk to call the vote.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,

21 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on

22 Education, Introductions 1547-A, 1550-A, 1552-B and

23 1554-B, all items are coupled, Chair Treyger?

24 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ampry-Samuel?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of 12

in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions all items have been adopted by the
committee.

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2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: We'll keep the roll
3 open for about five minutes.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Continuation of
5 roll call, Committee on Education, Council Member
6 Cornegy?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: The vote is now
9 at 13 in the affirmative.

10 [off mic dialogue]

11 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Members we still
12 have a vote so if we could just quite down for a
13 moment, we'll have final votes tallied for the
14 Education Committee and we'll happily turn it over to
15 finance.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Continuation of
17 roll call vote, Committee on Education, Council
18 Member Barron?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye on
20 all, thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: The vote is
22 currently at 14 in the affirmative.

23 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Members... alright,
24 so this is the final vote for the Education vote and
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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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then we'll, we'll gavel out, the, the, the clerk will
call the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Council Member
Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: The final vote,
all items on today's Committee on Education are
adopted by the Committee 15 in the affirmative, zero
in the negative and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And this hearing
vote is now adjourned.

[gavel]

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

November 21, 2019