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EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Education and Labor Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held hybrid via Zoom/in person in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on November 10, 2021.

Members Present:

Legislator Samuel Gonzalez - Vice Chairman
Legislator Susan A. Berland
Legislator Leslie Kennedy
Legislator Kara Hahn
Legislator Jason Richberg
Legislator William Spencer
Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey - Chairman

Also in Attendance:

Presiding Officer Robert Calarco
Basia Braddish - Acting Counsel to the Legislature
Amy Ellis - Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

1
2 (The meeting was called to order at 11:37 a.m.)
3

4 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

5 Welcome, everyone, to the meeting of Education and Labor Committee.
6 I call the meeting to order. The pledge of Allegiance led by
7 Legislator Hahn.
8

9 (Pledge of Allegiance)

10
11 Thank you. Pursuant to the governor's executive order, our
12 meetings will be held in a hybrid fashion. We had the opportunity
13 -- anyone to sign up for participation remotely or in person.
14 Mr. Clerk, do behave anybody that signed up for the public hearing?
15

16 **MR. DUBOIS:**

17 We do not.
18

19 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

20 Okay. Very good.
21

22 **MR. DUBOIS:**

23 My apologies. We did have one speaker sign up.
24

25 **LEG. MCCAFFREY:**

26 Okay. In person, Sheree Sabilly (ph). Did I say that right?
27

28 **MS. SABILLY:**

29 Yes. Good morning. My name is Sheree Sabilly. I'm a parent from
30 Brentwood School District. I'm a parent of four kids, now only
31 three. I looked at your agenda today, and I don't see anything
32 about education. That's a problem for me considering in July 2020,
33 I lost my daughter to a pulmonary embolism. She was bullied,
34 right, and everybody think, Oh, you know, she was bullied, it's not
35 that serious because kids bully, right? How about teachers?
36 Documentation, videos, self-harmed. I went to my legislators,
37 assembly. None of you guys helped me. Now I get to visit her in
38 Amityville cemetery. Do you know how that makes me feel? So when
39 I look at your agenda, I don't see anything about protecting our
40 children.
41

42 Do you see my shirt? This is Bernice (ph). Don't help me because
43 she's my child. How about help me because she's a child. We have
44 a law, DASA; it doesn't help us. I have a total of 19 binders,
45 documentation, harassment, discrimination, bullying because she was
46 part of LGBT. Have any of you decided to help me? I'm currently
47 still a very active parent. Want to know why? Because there's
48 thousands of children still going through this. I'm asking you to
49 help. DASA does not protect our children. At 16, you know what
50 the medical examiner said? He's never seen a child with that
51 amount of stress that her lungs exploded. My daughter was supposed
52 to be in college, but instead she's in Amityville Cemetery.
53

54 I have met with Ramos, Mr. Gonzalez. They all -- minus
55 Mr. Gonzalez. He's tried to help. But Ramos, I can't get involved
56 but it's education. If our kids are bullied at school, you want to

1 know what happens? They drop out. They walk the streets. They
2 become homeless, and then they are in the criminal system. I'm
3 asking you to help me with a bill. At 16 years old, there's no
4 reason why daughter could not go to school for a full day. I had
5 doctors, lawyers, you name it. I had heard, You're not a girl, you
6 must be a boy because you look like a boy. But my name is Bernice.
7 What are you guys doing?
8

9 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

10 Ms. Sabilly, I'm sorry for your loss. Your three minutes is up. I
11 know you've already spoken to Legislator Gonzalez, and the
12 Education and Labor Committee may not be the perfect venue for this
13 issue. I'm not saying that this committee can't help you, won't
14 help you, but we'll work closely with Legislator Gonzalez to make
15 sure the appropriate action that the legislature can provide will
16 be provided to you.
17

18 **MS. SABILLY:**

19 I appreciate that, but I will come back to Education because our
20 kids can't be educated if the teachers that are supposed to be
21 educating them are the ones that's bullying them.
22

23 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

24 We understand, and we're just trying to refine it a little bit to
25 make sure that you come before the proper venue that we can truly
26 help you. We will work with Legislator Gonzalez to make sure that
27 that happens, okay?
28

29 **MS. SABILLY:**

30 Okay.
31

32 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

33 Are there any other speakers?
34

35 **MR. DUBOIS:**

36 I believe that was the only one.
37

38 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**

39 We have no presentations. No tabled resolutions. We have an
40 appointment. **Number 1800, Reappointing member to the Suffolk
41 County Community College Board of Trustees (Priscilla Zarate).**
42 **(Gonzalez)** I understand that Ms. Zarate cannot be here today, but
43 this is a re-appointment, and I think I see Ben Zwirn from Suffolk
44 Community College. Ben, I know you had mentioned you may want to
45 just come forward and make a few comments about the reappointment.
46

47 **MR. ZWIRN:**

48 Yes. Ms. Zarate has a relatively new job in Port Washington School
49 District. She's head of the English as a New Language program, and
50 she couldn't make it today. But it's a re-appointment, and I just
51 want to say on the record that she has been present at all the
52 board meetings which is required, and she's chair of the advocacy
53 committee on the board of trustees, so she is an active member and
54 a member in good standing and we would ask that her re-appointment
55 be approved.
56

1 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**
2 There's a motion to confirm the reappointment.

3
4 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
5 Motion to approve.

6
7 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**
8 Second.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**
11 Second, Legislator Gonzalez. Any discussion?

12
13 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**
14 On the motion. I also have worked many years with Priscilla
15 Zarate. Like Ben Zwirn just said, she's definitely an active
16 member. I think she continues to be an asset at Suffolk County
17 Community College, and I also ask my colleagues for their will to
18 reappointment Priscilla Zarate.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**
21 Very good. Anyone else? Roll call.

22
23 (The roll was called by Mr. Dubois, Clerk)

24
25 **LEG. RICHBERG:**
26 Yes.

27
28 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**
29 Yes.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**
32 Yes.

33
34 **LEG. MAZARELLA:**
35 Yes.

36
37 **LEG. HAHN:**
38 Yes.

39
40 **LEG. KENNEDY:**
41 Yes.

42
43 **LEG. BERLAND:**
44 Yes.

45
46 **LEG. SPENCER:**
47 Yes.

48
49 **LEG. CALARCO:**
50 Yes.

51
52 **MR. DUBOIS:**
53 Nine.

54
55 **CHAIRMAN MCCAFFREY:**
56 1800 is passed. We have no tabled resolutions. No introductory

1 resolutions. We are adjourned. Thank you.

2

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(The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.)

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