

Equity Policy - School Board Needs to Become Pluralistic

Re: -School board comes out of closet
-Editorial doesn't portray true picture

I would like to comment on the editorial about the school board's approval of the sexual orientation strand of the Equity Policy which stated, "religious tenets of any nature must never creep into our public education system." This greatly concerns me because the school board does use a default system of religion called secular humanism in their decision making. The basic tenet of humanism is that there is no spirit god, no life after death. Decisions are made to make the best of life in the here and now. Courts in the United States have ruled, 'a public institution that makes decisions without consideration for the needs of all value systems in a community, does impose the religious values of humanisms on others.'

A person of faith makes decisions with serious regard for life after death. The Bible clearly explains what is displeasing to God - envy, murder, lying, idol worship, stealing, greed, drunkenness, slander, swindle, adultery, homosexual acts, etc. - and that God will judge whether or not one achieves eternal life. It is, therefore, my responsibility to guide my children to choose actions that please God.

The concern regarding implementation of the Equity Policy is, 'Will curriculum strategies selected confuse our children?' After passing a similar policy in 1999, the Toronto District School Board hired a four member LGBT sensitization team that went to every grade 2 class to talk about different kinds of families. In Massachusetts, school boards and homosexual groups sponsor a "youth pride" event where junior and senior high students attend a festival intended to celebrate the diversity of the homosexual lifestyle. Students are encouraged to participate in activities that help them to understand the lifestyle (e.g. same sex kissing, hand holding, etc.).

Public Education values do undermine the teaching of parents and the church. The Barna Research Group surveyed Christian and secular children about their values and beliefs, and the results demonstrate that the values of the church kids are not much different than the non-church students.

To address our concerns, the school board needs to become pluralistic in their management approach. A pluralistic school board listens and responds to the concerns of the all stakeholders. One way to address the concerns of the faith groups expressing concern would be through differentiated instruction, such as alternative programming. School boards such as Niagara, Grand Erie, Upper Grand, and Rainy River districts offer faith-sensitive Christian alternative schools where the goals of the policies such as this would be implemented with the consideration for the values of the families attending.

Curriculum needs to be implemented in a manner that is safe (physically, psychologically, and spiritually) for ALL students.

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School Board Needs to Become Pluralistic

Re: -School board comes out of closet
-Editorial doesn't portray true picture

I am greatly disturbed by the editorial statement that “religious tenets of any nature must never creep into our public education system.”

The school board uses a system of religion called secular humanism. The basic tenet of humanism is that there is no spirit god, no life after death. Decisions are made to make the best of situations in the here and now. Courts in the United States have ruled that public institutions do not impose the religious values of humanism on others **when making decisions based solely on the religion of humanism.**

A person of faith makes decisions with serious regard for life after death. The Bible clearly explains what is displeasing to God: envy, murder, lying, idol worship, stealing, greed, drunkenness, slander, swindle, adultery, homosexual acts, etc. The judgement of people is not up to me, it is up to God. It is, however, my responsibility to guide my children to choose actions that please God.

When implementing the Equity Policy, will **various** strategies be used that confuse our children. After passing a similar policy in 1999, the Toronto District School Board hired a four member LGBT sensitization team that went to every grade 2 class to talk about different kinds of families. In Massachusetts, school boards and **multi-sexual** orientation groups sponsor a “youth pride” event where junior and senior high students attend a festival intended to celebrate the diversity of the homosexual lifestyle. Students are encouraged to participate in activities that help them to understand the lifestyle of **various sexual orientations** (e.g. same sex kissing, hand holding, **group sex**, etc.).

Public Education values do **undermine** the teaching of parents and church **but should not**. The Barna Research Group surveyed Christian and secular children about their values and beliefs, and the results demonstrate that the values of the church kids are not much different than the non-church students.

To address our concerns, the school board needs to become pluralistic in their management approach. A pluralistic school board would listen to the concerns of the **various stakeholders**, and would **ensure** that their concerns were addressed **equitably**. One way to address the concerns could be through differentiated instruction such as alternative programming. School boards such as Niagara, Grand Erie, Upper Grand, and Rainy River district offer faith-sensitive Christian alternative schools.

In keeping with Section 10.4 of the Sexual Orientation Strand of the Equity Policy, parents want the board to implement policies to create **environments which are physically, emotionally, spiritually, socially and intellectually safe** for **all** students. **Without various concerned faith groups participating in the implementation discussions, how can this actually be accomplished?**

