

We found out a little over a month ago that the Department of Education, MN had invited out two 'experts' from the Minneapolis area to give a workshop to the NL-S teachers on how to treat LGBT children and issues.

Then just a little over a week later we discovered the board was going to have its 'first reading' of the proposed policy, so about 15 people got together to voice our concerns. We asked them to please postpone the final reading for two or three months so those affected by the policy could have adequate input. They listened, but they didn't change the agenda.

The policy, which we downloaded from their website, had elements that shocked us enough that we wanted to speak up.

The proposed policy clearly states that the school is committed to 'maximizing the social integration' of transgender students. That means that boys who at any time wish to see themselves as girls can do anything in schools that the girls do. These boys can use any of the girls' facilities and participate on any of the girls' sports teams. It means they can enter private bathroom and locker room facilities freely.

The policy also states that 'sex [is] assigned at birth.' What kind of fantasy is that? The policy obviously buys into the idea that sex is fluid and it is to be determined by the person sometime in their lifetime. Biology appears to have nothing to do with it.

We all found this a direct assault on the safety and privacy of the students, and on our mores and beliefs. We strongly feel that this policy is an abuse of all children, while at the same time putting all of them in danger.

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