

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUGGESTED BOARD RESOLUTION

Meeting Date: May 26, 2009

Item Title: Decision on Elementary Caring School Curriculum, Lesson # 9

Item Type: Vote and decision

BACKGROUND: About 70 percent of total speakers from both public hearings were against the curriculum. Additional speakers from both sides were turned away at the first hearing (no tally). The majority of emails on the President's website are against the curriculum (381/355).

Supporters of the curriculum asked schools to take responsible for the visibility of homosexual families. As anti-discrimination laws do not require this, opponents focused on safety for all.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Savings of millions of dollars in lawsuits and consultant's fees.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Decline approval for Lesson # 9 on "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity."
2. Establish a Common Ground Taskforce for K-12 to oversee the following work:
 - Review the Nondiscrimination/Harassment Policy BP5145.3 and update if necessary. Write a detailed protocol for responding to all types of teasing and bullying, including help for victims and discipline. Post it on the AUSD website, create brochures that clearly detail everyone's accountability, and conduct presentations for teachers and parents.
 - Sixth to Twelfth Grade: Ensure curriculum, teaching and resources related to homosexuality are balanced, academic, and respectful to all.
 - Kindergarten to Fifth Grade: Monitor resources on family diversity (no curriculum).

The Taskforce will be selected by fair and public process, seeking expressions of interest from the community for: a neutral Alameda resident (not an external consultant) as the leader, and equal representatives of the different views on homosexuality. Candidates must demonstrate civility and respect for different views and agree that no view will be prioritized over others.

AUSD Superintendent's Goal Area: Goal #3: Ensure all students will be in educational environments that are safe and conducive to learning.

Submitted by: Kerry Cook, Spokesperson for the Concerned Parents Website.

Approved for Submission to Board of Education: