



Hamilton – Wentworth Family Action Council

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING FAMILY VALUES

BOX 105, BINBROOK, ONTARIO L0R 1C0

www.hamiltonfamilyaction.org

June 28, 2004

VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
100 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

Attention: Mr. Chuck Reid, Superintendent

Re: Equity Policy/ Revised February 9, 2004,
Supporting Guidelines Equity Policy, Antiracism and Ethnocultural Equity

Dear Chuck:

On behalf of the Hamilton-Wentworth Family Action Council, I wish to thank you for meeting with us on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at which time we discussed the forming of the Equity Committee, and the absence of faith-community representation. Also discussed was the Committee's Glossary definition of 'race'. We confirm that you will be taking our concerns back to the Committee to ask them to consider having the definition of 'race' changed to reflect the language used in the glossary of the SHCI.

As we also expressed at that meeting, we have concerns regarding several other Glossary definitions within the Supporting Guidelines to the Equity Policy. We have found that they are not common Miriam-Webster definitions, nor consistent with Ministry, Constitution and Charter definitions. We have set out these terms comparatively in the attached Appendix, entitled Comparative Glossary Terms and Comments.

Specifically, we find the following HWDSB Glossary definitions to be lacking in clear, concise language, or they are simply inadequate: Community Consultation, Counseling/Guidance/Support Services, and Stakeholders. We have also noted the omission of the term(s) minority/minority group.

We object to the following HWDSB Glossary definitions for reasons found in the Comments section: Bias, Culture, Curriculum, Discrimination, Ethnicity, and Prejudice.

The HWFAC is confident that the HWDSB Equity Committee will reconsider these Glossary definitions in light of this comparative criticism. Thank you for your prompt response to this issue. We look forward to meeting with you again to discuss this matter further.

Very truly yours,

Gloria Turner,
Director, HWFAC

cc:

Equity Consultant Bill Torrens
Director of Education M. Matier
Pastor Stephen Whyte
Pastor Raj Sandhu

Superintendent Croxall
All trustees
Pastor Gord Norman
Pastor Roy Pierce

Note: The HWDSB Equity Policy, Memorandum, and Supporting Guidelines can be found on the HWDSB web site at: http://webservice.hwdsb.on.ca/about_us/policies/pdfs/equity_policy.pdf.