



Hamilton - Wentworth

Family Action Council

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING FAMILY VALUES
BOX 105, BINBROOK, ONTARIO
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Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board April 13, 2005

100 Main St. W.
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 3L1

Re: Growth and Development Updates - Grades 5 & 6

Att'n: Superintendent Krys Croxall

Dear Krys:

Thank you for the opportunity to preview the above, prior to printing. As our window of opportunity is only 2 days, our comments are limited. Prior to commenting on the current updates, we wish to summarize our overall concerns of any sexual health oriented curriculum for adolescents. Children especially, have within them a natural modesty barrier regarding their sexual organs/anatomy and this is healthy. It is something that we as parents work diligently to reinforce. It is this modesty barrier which prevents children from approaching one another on sexual issues.

One of our principle concerns for our children, is that some sexual health approaches may break down the modesty barriers, causing children to be comfortable with sexual touching, viewing and/or intercourse if presented at a level which is not age/stage appropriate and within a moral vacuum. We continue to find that there is too much time spent on this topic and that this curriculum fails to deal with the spiritual component of sexuality, despite the clear direction for the Ministry to do so. We would very much appreciate a response to this concern which we have raised on earlier occasions.

Sexuality is a very powerful component of humans which, when trained and exercised in the manner for which it was intended, (the union of one man and woman for life, to the exclusion of all others), is very positive. Sexuality unleashed however, can be and is very destructive.

For our children, the teaching is very clear; sexual activity outside of marriage (fornication, adultery) is sin and sin carries with it grave consequences spiritually. There are no true benefits of adolescents being sexually active, with condoms, pills or otherwise either from a physical, emotional or spiritual perspective. This is the reason we believe God labeled fornication and adultery as sin, because it is not good for us. For sexual health curriculum to be truly healthy, it must be designed with this basic truth in mind. HWDSB curriculum as it progresses, fails to clearly say that sexual activity for adolescents and adults outside of marriage is unhealthy. As you will read in our comments of this letter and following ones, some of the recent updates are positive while others are steps in political correctness at the cost of denying the truth.

Our brief comments on the Grade 5 curriculum are as follows:

Page

5-1 Agree with removal of PHN references

5-7 suggestion that parents do not listen nor respect her feelings and that she may go to another adult undermines parental authority

Parents may not appreciate bringing in another adult

5-8 **Excellent activity**

5-12 **Excellent activity**

5-13 please add, 'opportunity for parents to preview media resource prior to classroom showing is required' (In keeping with information form)

5-14 we object to frontal diagrams, breaks down modesty barriers, especially when presented in group format and with mixed gender

5-17 recommend that information be divided into female hygiene and male hygiene and taught to specific gender only

remove term 'wet dreams'

5-19 remove term 'wet dreams'

5-20 again this should be gender specific

10 yr old boys need not understand term 'vaginal discharge'

5-22 again this should be gender specific

5-24 again this should be gender specific

repetitious of 5-21, too much

5-29 recommend male info to male, female info to female

5-34 do not support frontal diagram

5-43 again, please add, 'opportunity for parents to preview media resource prior to classroom showing is required' (In keeping with information form)

5-50 we do not support the crossover of female and male student worksheets. These are very personal, breakdown the important modesty barriers

5-55 information letter should be a consent letter and must be signed by the parent before their child attends the classes. How will teacher know if the parent even received the letter?

Overall, the intent and language of the information letter is quite good

5-67(3)response to orgasm should not be given, best referred to parent

(4)response to masturbate should not be given, is far too detailed and even suggestive, refer to parent

(5)not appropriate classroom discussion

(6)the former response to 'Why is someone gay was far more suitable'. The update response fails to answer the question, is incorrect and not at all suitable

Our comments on the grade 6 curriculum areas follows:

6-1 We do not support the PHN in the classroom at any time. Our families are clearly advised accordingly. At no time is the 'safe sex' method of Public Health permissible.

6-3 Excellent activity

6-5 Excellent

6-6 Excellent

6-7 Excellent

6-15 Excellent

6-16 Excellent

- 6-17 This activity and answer sheet (6-21), fringe on interfering in family dealings. This is however acknowledged in the chart. A very sensitive area to get into. Important to not turn the child against the parents. Suggest that situation be modified such that the tension is between the boy and the teacher. The boy is upset that Grade 7 students have more liberties than Grade 5 students.
- 6-24 We much prefer and support gender-specific information which is less likely to breakdown modesty barriers.
Please remove term. 'wet dreams'.
- 6-26 Same as 6-24
- 6-28 Same as 6-24
- 6-29 Same as 6-24
- 6-30 Please restate as, 'previewing of resources by parents prior to class viewing is required.'
- 6-31 Okay
- 6-32 Okay
- 6-33 Remove reference to all non-reproductive organs. Later discussions regarding the clitoris are unacceptable, particularly to the boys. This diagram is supposed to teach reproductive organs, there is no requirement for the rest.
- 6-34 Frontal diagrams are unacceptable.
- 6-35 Same as 6-34.
- 6-36 Missing word 'female' in third point
- 6-37 What is the point of this page?
- 6-38 Same as 6-24
- 6-44 Ovum should be identified only as a reproductive cell, not sex/reproductive cell
- 6-45 Same as 6-44
- 6-46 Absolutely object to this frontal detailed diagram

This diagram can serve as a 'turn on' for boys
Anus and clitoris are not part of the reproductive system

6-48 Okay

6-49 Okay

6-50 Okay

6-51 This is too much, making a game out of sexual organs. We cannot support this at all.
The information need only be covered once, these are not medical students
It is simply too much and this game is ridiculous
Please abandon

6-58 At least this is not a game

6-62 Same comment as 5-55

6-66 We strongly recommend that the question box method only, be used as this eliminates
shock or inappropriate questions. They can be dealt with on an individual basis with
parent present if necessary.

6-71 Abstinence - change 'best' to 'only'

(3) not appropriate question for classroom setting, term pleasurable not acceptable

(4) not an appropriate question for classroom setting

(5) same as (4)

(6) unacceptable, see 5-67 (6)

(7) too much info at this age , simply, 'the male sperm cell and the female egg are
needed to make a baby'
is sufficient. The remainder is too much and off topic

(9) The point made here regarding tattooing , "What do you think some lifelong
consequences might be?", is fine. This point must be made about unmarried sexual
activity. Certainly there are some lifelong consequences about this which need to be
seriously considered. Please create an activity about this and add to the Grade 6
curriculum.

(11) Add 'clergy' above PHN

Upon reviewing our comments please contact myself and I will be pleased to meet with you to discuss this. I would very much like to do this before we report to our families and perhaps we can address these concerns.

In Family Service,

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Cc. Debbie Sprentz
HWFAC Executive