



***Hamilton - Wentworth
Family Action Council***

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING FAMILY VALUES
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Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
100 Main St. W.
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Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3L1

August 29, 2005

Re: Growth and Development Updates - Grade 8

Att'n: Superintendent Krys Croxall

Dear Krys:

Thank you for the opportunity to preview the above, prior to printing. Please recall our overall principles and underlying concerns with the curriculum as a whole expressed in our April 13, 2005 correspondence. They apply to this portion of the curriculum as well. We also wish to reiterate the importance of gender separate classes and gender specific information, particularly as it applies to personal information.

Also, as the grades progress the main troubling issue with the curriculum is the inconsistent definition of the term abstinence and the constant references to various sexual acts. We as a council do not support the introducing of our children to various sexual acts which are not intended by nature. Oral and anal sex are not acts intended by nature and are extremely risky. The discussion of these acts in a classroom setting may stir curiosity in our children which may lead to experimentation. We have in many points throughout our critique outlined our preferred definition of abstinence and how more safely to describe it while reducing the possibility of inciting curiosity. Please seriously consider our input.

Our specific comments are as follows:

8-1 Please add to the instructions, " At no time is the PHN permitted to address the students without
(new) the teacher present.

8-27 This sheet targets boys as bullies only. Girls are also bullies and often in a greater degree. This
(new) needs to be balanced off.

8-39 The extension activity must be carried out with parental consent only. Oral sex is an unnatural
(new) sexual act and for many, the classroom setting is not the choice of format for discussion.

8-45 See comments 8-39. Also, 8-45 must again be clearly marked as 'by parental consent only'. The
(new) discussion of these specifics may be helpful for some but suggestive for others. The goal of this curriculum again must be in line with the mission statement of the Sexual Health Network, " To reduce and/or postpone sexual activity for adolescents." We do not support discussion of unnatural sexual acts. Sexual activity may simply be defined as, "The touching of another's private/personal areas. (i.e. Areas typically covered by the bathing suit)".

Secondly, why has Phil been made out to be the culprit and not Mohammed?

8-49 #3 More readily than what?
(new) Why are pages on skin care removed?

8-51 An expansion for the danger of HPV should be at least as significant as HIV. Cases of HPV are
(new) far more prevalent and many more women die from related cervical cancer.

8-53 Should 'HIV' in first sentence read 'HPV'?
(new)

8-54 We do not support the following 3 ways that HIV that are suggested that HIV is not spread:
(new)

- 1) Sharing eating utensils
- 2) Sharing drinks

Both of these are risky behaviours especially for Hepatitis and should not be suggested in any sort of positive light

- 3) Kissing a grandparent

Kissing a grandparent who is HIV positive may in fact transmit HIV. Our readings reveal that HIV is carried in oral saliva. Suggesting that kissing is not a means of transmitting HIV is not acceptable.

8-55 Please change 'sexual intercourse' to sexual activity
(new) Again, sexual activity need only be described as the touching of another's private/personal areas of body typically covered by a bathing suit

8-56 Good points regarding what is necessary to make a responsible decision
(new)

Clearly no grade 8 student meets the criteria of making a responsible decision about sexual activity and so this a great opportunity to make the point

Far too much discussion on condoms without clearly spelling out the actual failure rates physically, emotionally and spiritually.

8-58 Please add clergy prior to public health nurse
(new)

8-74 As pointed out in past curriculum, prevention means, "to make impossible," therefore condoms
(new) are **not** a method of prevention. This must be cleared up in order that students are not given a false sense of security.

8-76 Revise 'Abstinence is best' to, 'Abstinence is only sure way'
(new)

8-79 Again, 'Abstinence is avoiding any type of sexual activity'. Listing of various sexual acts is not
(new) beneficial per our earlier comments.

- 8-80 Parent interview
(new) **Applause and loud cheering!**
Excellent. As it should be.
- 8-81 Please rewrite as, 'Abstinence means choosing to avoid any type of sexual activity.' This should
(new) be consistent throughout entire curriculum
- 8-82 Please remove the, 'gone pretty far portion'. In this context it seems that 'pretty far' is acceptable
(new)
- 8-85 some very good points
(new) to point 4, please add, 'and an excellent way to prevent bringing sexual disease into the marital relationship'
- 8-87 Excellent point about abstinence
(new)
- 8-93 D) 'any type of sexual activity'. No list please.
(new)
- 8-105 D) same comments as 8-93
(new) Overall, this game is quite good. Please revise 8-93 and 8-105
- 8-111 Please add note, 'Parental opportunity to preview video prior to classroom showing must occur.'
(new)
- 8-113 #5,#14 Again, 'any type of sexual activity. Please, no listing of various sexual acts.
(new)
- #8 We disagree with answer. Oral saliva is a body fluid and can contain HIV.
- #13 Here you seem to identify that drinking from a fountain may transmit STD's if mouth touches dispensing portion of fountain. In Appendix 'F' you state that HIV is not spread from drinking from a fountain.
- #14 Here you identify wet kissing as transmitting many viruses, therefore oral saliva is risky, including HIV
- 8-119 #2 Again, 'sexual activity'. Please no list
(new)
- #4 Same as #2
- #5 Again, condoms do not prevent, 'make impossible'.
Again, 'sexual activity'. Please no list.
- 8-121 Again, condoms do not prevent, 'make impossible'.
(new)
- 8-122 This page is plagued with problems. It is very much targeted to promoting birth control pills and

(new) abortive medications, medications that end the life of the unborn child. This is a very serious legal liability.

8-123 to 125 Far too much. These answers prepare the student for sex. The goal must be to postpone sexual activity not prepare students for sex.
(new)

We do not condone this quiz.

8-126 We have no difficulty this cross-sectional diagram but are opposed to the labeling of non-reproductive organs, in particular the clitoris and where the discussion will lead. i.e. pleasurable feelings, orgasm etc. as has been done in previous activities.
(new)

8-127 to 128 We have no difficulty with these internal diagrams.
(new)

8-129 We do not support the graphic frontal illustration of the penis, in particular when it is shown to girls. This can be upsetting, especially for girls who have suffered from sexual abuse.
(new)

8-130 - 131 We have no difficulty with these internal diagrams
(new)

8-133 This worksheet is not at all acceptable and leads the adolescent male mind into an unhealthy mindset. We understand the intention but disagree with the approach.
(new)

8-134 Same comments as 8-133.
(new)

8-135 - 8-136 Again the discussion of oral and anal sex. It seems as though there is a goal to normalize anal sex when in fact it is isolated to very few, and most do not even ponder such deviant behaviour.
(new)

There is no mention of the spiritual consequences of sinning against God; the most serious consequence of all.

8-137 Again the discussion of various sexual acts is not necessary or suitable.
(new) What is meant by 'her choices' if she is pregnant? We trust this is not implying abortion as a choice.

8-138 Again the discussion of various sexual acts is not necessary or suitable.
(new)

8-139 Again the discussion of various sexual acts is not necessary or suitable.
(new)

8-140 Again the discussion of various sexual acts is not necessary or suitable.
(new)

8-141 Promotion of abortion medication, ECP is legally risky and unacceptable for our children.
(new)

8-142 Kids Help Line makes reference to Planned Parenthood and this again is unacceptable for our
(new) children.

8-143 Again the discussion of various sexual acts is not necessary or suitable.
(new)

8-144 'Protected' sex or unprotected sex is no different for children; both are wrong.
(new)

8-146-147 Promotion of condomized sex and abortion pills is absolutely unacceptable. The goal is
(new) to postpone sexual activity not prepare our children for sex under various 'safe'
approaches. This provides students with a false sense of security.

8-147 We agree with the statement, "It is important to note that many grade 8 students will not be
(new) involved in an intimate relationship or even be thinking about the various ways of communicating
affection."

We do not agree with the portion that follows, "However, it is ideal to have prior knowledge,
exposure to simulated real-life issues and opportunities to anticipate options and consequences in
advance of actually experiencing a situation."

We liken this to perverting our children in order that they may live in a perverse world. There are
safer ways to prepare our children for the ills of this world.

We cannot agree that oral and anal intercourse are means of showing affection. Oral sex is
extremely unhealthy and anal intercourse is sadistic.

8-148 We are not comfortable with the discussion of French Kissing. Some or many may not be aware
(new) of such an act and discussion may prompt them.

Again 'sexual intercourse' should read 'sexual activity' and be defined as. "Any activity which
involves the touching of another's personal or private areas, those areas typically covered by a
bathing suit."

8-151 The debriefing seems quite decent. Please replace 'sexual intercourse' with 'sexual activity'.
(new) Please place religious leader before public health nurse at school. We appreciate the term 'public
health nurse at school', our fear is references this nurse may make to clinic services.

8-154 Again, 'sexual intercourse' should read 'sexual activity' with no listing of various sexual acts.
(new)

We are not comfortable with the discussion of French kissing.

8-163 Again, 'sexual intercourse' should read 'sexual activity' with no listing of various sexual acts.
(new)

Again, We are not comfortable with the discussion of French kissing.

8-166 Again, 'sexual intercourse' should read 'sexual activity' with no listing of various sexual acts.
(new)

8-167 This extension is way too much, this continued focus on anal intercourse is troubling to say the
(new) least. All of this has little or nothing to do with abstinence which is supposed to be the point.

8-169 The discussion of oral sex and anal intercourse at an equivalent level to vaginal intercourse is
(new) disgusting and seems to be attempting to equivocate unnatural homosexual acts to natural heterosexual relations.

Again, this has nothing to do with the importance of abstinence. Very dark work here.

8-171 A significant discussion on some problems with oral sex, perhaps gonorrhea of the throat could
(new) also be mentioned which is an increasing problem for those who participate in oral sex. Also there should be discussion on the hygiene problems associated with ingesting sperm and vaginal fluids. Let us provide some insight into this destructive conduct.

Semen contains many of the germs carried in the blood. Because of this, those who practice oral sex verge on consuming raw human blood, with all its medical risks. Since the penis often has tiny lesions (and may have been in unsanitary places such as an anal canal), individuals so involved may become infected with hepatitis A or gonorrhea (and even HIV and hepatitis B).

There is no mention of the many significant health issues associated with anal intercourse. It is must be noted that persons involved in this activity may not be blood donors. Let us provide some insight into this destructive conduct.

Anal intercourse is dangerous. During anal intercourse the rectum becomes a mixing bowl for saliva and its germs and/or an artificial lubricant, the recipient's own feces, germs, infections or substances present on the penis and seminal fluid of the inserter. Since sperm readily penetrate the rectal wall (which is only one cell thick) causing immunologic damage, and tearing or bruising of the anal wall is very common during anal/penile sex, these substances gain almost direct access to the blood stream. Anal intercourse is probably the most sexually efficient way to spread hepatitis B, HIV syphilis and a host of other blood-borne diseases.

Tearing or ripping of the anal wall is especially likely with 'fisting', where the hand and arm is inserted into the rectum. The rectum was not designed to accommodate the fist, and those who do so can find themselves consigned to diapers for life.

8-172 More of the same.
(new)

8-173-176 More troubling work.
(new)

8-177-179 Good exercise.
(new) Best done individually, not with friends.
Encouragement to speak with parents is good.

8-180 Please place trusted adult-parent guardian in the number one position, not at the bottom of the list.
(new)

Why is the PHN referred to as a school PHN?

Overall, a good activity.

8-183 (new) We object to 5 listed agencies and do not want these promoted to our children as follows:

- 1) Information & Sexual Health Centers (listed in yellow pages under 'Birth Control Information Centers'.)
- 2) Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic (again, listed in yellow pages under 'Birth Control Information Centers'.)
- 3) Hamilton AIDS Network - an agency plagued with issues and committed to the embracing of homosexuality versus eliminating AIDS
- 4) Planned Parenthood
- 5) Kid's Help Phone (uses Planned Parenthood as a resource for children)

8-184 (new) Compulsory attendance of teacher with PHN in classroom is good

2 week minimum lead on information letter is good

Opportunity for parental view of resource is good

8-185 (new) We support the question box, in particular when used to screen inappropriate questions

8-187 (new) We again ask that the information letter be a consent form

The expectations laid out in this letter are misleading. What parent would imagine that explaining the importance of abstinence means repeated discussions around oral sex and anal intercourse. These are high risk, unnatural behaviours.

8-196 (new) We are not clear how one can provide clear instruction regarding healthy living and sexuality and be non-judgmental. Sexuality discussion must be taught along side moral instruction, right and wrong. It is the morals which guide students as to how they use information.

8-199 - 206

(new) 1) Again the definition of how old one should be before becoming sexually active makes it clear that sex belongs in an adult married context. No other arrangement meets the definition.

2) Again, please change abstinence to be, choosing any type of sexual 'activity'.

3) Please change question to read, "What is meant by any type of sexual activity?"

Please change answer to read, "Any type of sexual activity means any touching of another person's personal/private areas, those areas typically covered by a bathing suit.

4) Discussion of orgasm should not be part of this curriculum and is enticing.

- 5) Discussion of masturbation should not be part of curriculum and is enticing as written.
- 6) The description of how a baby is made is far too much for a classroom setting. The first sentence is enough.
- 7) The answer does not address the question. The positive spin on homosexuality is not acceptable for our children. Homosexuality is unnatural and is physically destructive, emotionally crippling and spiritually damning. It would be better to address the question as asked or not entertain the question at all.
- 8) The description of how a baby is made is far too much for a classroom setting. The first sentence is enough.
- 9) The response to the purpose of condoms does not answer the question.

The 1:6 (roll of a dice) failure rates for pregnancy should be discussed.

The 100% failure rate for fornication must be discussed. The condom provides a false sense of security around sexual activity.
- 10) Again, students are asked to consider life long consequences of tattooing. This question must be posed strongly in an activity relating to sexual activity.
- 12) We absolutely forbid the school from referring our children to any Public Health nurse or clinic. We will hold HWDSB liable if any of our children receive 'confidential' counseling regarding sexual behaviours . These are 13-year-old children, we will not permit such sexual interference. Please refer to our Declaration of Spiritual Values.

We firmly request that any contact info regarding Public health **not** be included anywhere, as it is on page 8-206 (new). Promotion of Public Health is unacceptable and unnecessary.

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