



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

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING FAMILY VALUES
Box 66714, 38 King Street East Stoney Creek, ON L8G 5E6

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
100 Main St. W.
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 3L1

May 10, 2006

Att'n: Superintendent Kryz Croxall

Re: Growth and Development Curriculum Discussions of May 5, 2006

Dear Kryz:

Thank you for setting aside time to sit with our Council a second time to discuss the latest update (March 2005) of Grade 5-8 Growth and Development Curriculum. We are very pleased with the continued open dialogue which allows each of us to respectfully present our concerns while listening and understanding the perspective of others. To summarize, we essentially discussed 3 areas as follows:

- 1) Chart which illustrates the exposure factor associated with a person having more than 1 sexual partner over their lifetime and how being sexually active at 13 years of age would lend to having many partners prior to marriage.

During this discussion, we learned that a person who has had 10 sexual partners who also have had 10 partners, would be exposed to the sexual diseases of 1023 people. We requested that HWDSB consider using this chart (or similar) in the curriculum as it helps to visualize the serious impact. We understood that you would consider our request.

- 2) Frontal diagrams of male and female genitals (pages 6-34 & 6-46) as well as other pages in grade 6.

We again expressed our concern with the graphic (almost photo-like) images of the male penis and female vagina. We discussed how some girls would be frightened or at least very uncomfortable with this image, particularly for those who had experienced sexual interference in their life. We questioned the need for frontal diagrams when the necessary information can be communicated through the cross-sectional diagrams as it is in Grades 5,7 & 8. We also discussed how the graphic vagina illustration could lead to arousal in some boys. We understood that you would consider our request to remove all frontal diagrams from the curriculum.

- 3) The definition of abstinence, numerous references to anal intercourse and description of anal intercourse on page 7-47.

We requested that abstinence be defined as 'refraining from sexual activity' and that sexual activity be defined as, 'the touching of another person's private areas typically covered by a bathing suit'. In using the above definition, we feel that abstinence is very clearly defined as well as sexual activity, without leading or planting a seed in the child's mind about a dangerous activity that they might otherwise not even ponder. We understand that you will not change the definitions and are disappointed.

Lengthy discussion was given to the dangers of anal intercourse and how the body naturally attempts to reject this abusive act. We discussed the serious implications of disease transmission via tears in the thin membrane and possibly of being constrained to diapers due to damage to the sphincter muscle.

We understand that you will not consider removing the reference and description of anal intercourse but that you would consider specific reference to the high-risk nature of both oral and anal intercourse within the curriculum and in close proximity to the mention of each of these high-risk behaviours. This is in order that students would not be discussing the high-risk conduct on one occasion without immediately understanding the serious implications.

A very productive 60 minutes. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future regarding all of the above.

In Family Service,

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