

**Meeting Minutes of the
Sexuality, Health, and Responsibility Education (SHARE)
Advisory Committee of the
Washoe County School District Board of Trustees**

January 30, 2019

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the SHARE Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:35 p.m. at the WCSD Administration Building, 425 East 9th Street, Board Room, Reno, Nevada 89512

1.2 ROLL CALL

Chair Claudia Bessette, and Members Kelly Roper, Tiffany Hoffman, Ashley Sonderfan, Lydia DeFlorio, Victoria Lokke, Dariah Scott and Brent Brooks were present. Rochelle Proctor, WCSD staff liaison, was also present.

2. DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND ACTION ITEMS

2.1 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

Pastor Brent Brooks expressed concern about the SHARE Committee process and the rolls of the committee members.

Public Comment:

- Time Oates spoke against the proposed SHARE curriculum.
- Karen England spoke against the WCSD SHARE curriculum adoption process.

On motion by Ashley Sonderfan, second by Tiffany Hoffman, The SHARE Advisory Committee approved the agenda as presented (Yea: Tiffany Hoffman, Ashley Sonderfan, Lydia DeFlorio, Claudia Bessette, Victoria Lokke, Dariah Scott. Nay: Kelly Roper, Brent Brooks) Final Resolution: 5-2, Motion Carries.

2.2 Presentation regarding the goals and objectives of the SHARE Advisory Committee based on direction of the Board of Trustees related to the adoption of curriculum that is non-discriminatory in nature and which provides equal protection to all students (For Presentation Only)

Staff liaison, Rochelle Proctor, presented the WCSD BOT directive given to the SHARE committee in regards to the adoption of an inclusive curriculum, finishing the HS and MS curriculum in the 2018-19 SY and moving on the ES in the 2019-20 SY.

WCSD general counsel, Sara Montalvo, gave a brief presentation on the Equal Protection Clause.

2.3 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Sexuality Health and Responsibility Education Committee from October 16, 2018 (For Possible Action)

Item 2.3 was removed from the agenda and be placed on the February 20, 2019 agenda.

2.4 Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action to Recommend to the S.H.A.R.E Coordinator Revision to the Proposed Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (S.H.A.R.E.) High School Curriculum, to include Lesson Plans and Accompanying PowerPoint Presentation Materials, for Draft Lesson One, and concepts proposed to include the meaning of gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation; components of sexual orientation; and gender expectations; and moving and/or revising the concepts within the Current Lesson One, Reproductive Systems and Pregnancy, to elsewhere within the curriculum. (For Possible Action)

Rochelle Proctor presented the proposed HS SHARE lesson 1 to the committee. The proposed objectives focused on the meanings of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation; describe three components of sexual orientation (orientation, behavior and identity); Define different gender expectations in our culture; and identify where students receive messages about gender expectations.

Concern was brought up from Kelly Roper in regards to the placement of this lesson and the controversial nature of the topic.

Brent Brooks expressed his concern that we are not dealing with something that looks like traditional sex education, rather the proposed lesson resembles diversity education.

Brent specified, "With the gender identity lesson, we are moving away from traditional sex education (which includes items such as anatomy, reproduction, and pregnancy) and moving to something that much more resembles diversity education. In fact, we are talking about belief systems, such as someone with one set of genitalia and chromosomes believing that they are a different gender. The curriculum specifically says this is a student "belief." But we are privileging one set of beliefs."

Brent further added, "I understand we are required to have an 'inclusive curriculum.' This is not an inclusive curriculum. The chart presented to us says that gender identity is a protected class under the 14th Amendment. I understand that and do not argue against the right to have it included. The chart says also that 'religious beliefs' are a 14th Amendment protected class. Those beliefs are entitled to be presented equally also and not to be trampled upon. We cannot simply present one set of beliefs and privilege them. That would be the definition of an 'exclusive curriculum.' For the curriculum to be 'inclusive' it needs to include all 14th Amendment protected groups

which would give room for both sets of beliefs. For that reason, I cannot vote in favor of this exclusive curriculum.”

Committee member Ashley Sonderfan felt this lesson sets the stage for acceptable discourse around human sexuality and around self and their peers.

Dariah Scott had a question around the percentage of intersex and whether high school students had been consulted as to what they felt was important. Ms Proctor explained that indeed, she had gone before the student advisory council to seek their input of topics for SHARE.

Lydia DeFlorio stated that the American Psychological Association addresses the topic scientifically and not as a belief.

Victoria Lokke shared an article from the NY Times regarding the Trump administration and rolling back of the definition of transgender. Then went on to express her confusion on the topic and stated if the federal government was having difficulty defining it, how can we?

Ashley Sonderfan was concerned about relying on the federal government’s ability to address the mental and physical health needs of transgender students.

Tiffany Hoffman listed several organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics along with several other peer reviewed journals.

Committee questioned how to share information with the committee. Ms. Proctor explained that as long as the articles or information being shared was not deliberated upon within the committee, items could be shared BCC via email.

Public Comment:

- Dr. Tuttle spoke to the term of orientation, how it’s applied and feels this is a belief system rather than scientifically backed.
- James Benthem spoke in opposition of the proposed lesson.
- Carol Youngman spoke in opposition of the proposed curriculum.
- Joe McHenry spoke in opposition to the proposed curriculum
- Dan Sitma feels the presented curriculum is a belief system.
- Pastor Roger Perry spoke against the idea of gender.
- Karen England spoke to the earlier presentation of protected class and stated that the district is not addressing the needs of armed service veterans as a protected class.
- Jeanie Turner spoke in opposition to the proposed curriculum.

- Brooke Maylath spoke in support of this lesson into the curriculum and that it was scientifically based according to every major scientific organization including the CDC.
- Tim Oates spoke in opposition of the proposed curriculum and that this is a mindset rather than sex education.
- Chuck Brim spoke in opposition of the proposed curriculum.
- Richard Gutierrez spoke in opposition of teaching sex ed.
- Andrea Thompson spoke in favor of the updated curriculum based on her experiences as a nurse practitioner in the community.
- Mr. Ramira spoke in opposition to teaching of the proposed curriculum
- Sandra Vasquez stated that she felt this curriculum is teaching beliefs.
- Malia Hoffman spoke as a student representative from the WCSD advisory council. Spoke in favor of the proposed curriculum based on conversations with fellow students.
- Vanessa Vancor spoke in support of the proposed curriculum.
- Gabriella Renteria does not believe the proposed lesson 1 should be included in this curriculum.
- Alan Sterling stated that students should be working on basic skills instead of sex ed.

On motion by Ashley Sonderfan, second by Tiffany Hoffman, the S.H.A.R.E. Advisory Committee approve the changes presented here today and recommend them to the WCSD Board of Trustees. (Yea: Tiffany Hoffman, Ashley Sonderfan, Claudia Bessette and Lydia DeFlorio. Nay: Brent Brooks, Kelly Roper, Victoria Lokke, Dariah Scott). Final Resolution: Motion Fails 4-4.

2.5 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE S.H.A.R.E COORDINATOR REVISION TO THE PROPOSED SEXUALITY, HEALTH AND RESPONSIBILTiy EDUCATION (S.H.A.R.E.) HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM, TO INCLUDE LESSON PLANS AND ACCOMPANYING POWERPOINT PRESENTATION MATERIALS, FOR DRAFT LESSON TWO AND THE CONCEPTS PROPOSED TO INCLUDE DECISION MAKING; ABSTINENCE; ACCESSING INFORMATION, SUPPORT, AND RESOURCES; ADVOCACY; AND RELATIONSHIPS; AND REVISING AND/OR MOVING THE CONCEPTS WITHIN THE CURRENT LESSON TWO, PREGNANCY CHOICES: ADOPTION, ABORTION, AND TEEN PARENTHOOD, TO ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE CURRICULUM. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

District Liaison, Rochelle Proctor, presented the topics proposed for lesson 2. Students will understand abstinence is a conscious decision for any time and for any duration; identify steps involved in a decision making model; describe the impact people have on student's sexual decision making and; analyze source accuracy and reliability of sexual health information.

Some of the committee suggestions about lesson 2 were; more abstinence based resources be added to the resource list that students can access; rethinking of the abstinence continuum as it appears to frame student response as well as rewording of the decision making model and supporting scenarios. It was also noted to include the term, "trusted adult" as an option of who a student could speak to.

Public Comment:

- Tim Oates feels the lesson is missing the point that abstinence can be beautiful and definitions used throughout the lesson seem to be too fluid and need to be concrete.
- Alan Sterling spoke to the lack of mentioned consequences related to sexual activity.
- Andrea Thompson suggested adding, "speak to your health care provider" as an option for students and to reference up to date evidence based resources.

On motion by Kelly Roper, second by Brent Brooks, the S.H.A.R.E. Advisory Committee recommends changes in lesson two to reflect: language changed from past tense, the acronym DOGMA be removed, Webster's definition be looked at, include more resources regarding abstinence and return the lesson to the committee at the next Advisory. (Yea Brent Brooks, Kelly Roper, Victoria Lokke, Dariah Scott, Claudia Bessette and Lydia DeFlorio. Nay: Tiffany Hoffman, Ashley Sonderfan) Final Resolution: Motion Passes 6-2.

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.1 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date and location of the SHARE Advisory Committee is Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the WCSD Administration Building, 425 East 9th Street, Board Room, Reno Nevada.

3.2 Public Comment:

- Andraya Dickens spoke in favor of the proposed SHARE HS curriculum.
- Karen England spoke to the committee about Open Meeting Law and emails between committee members.
- Alan Sterling spoke to the topic of Open Meeting Law.

- Jay Caffereta spoke in favor of the proposed curriculum.
- Brooke Maylath spoke in support of the proposed curriculum.

3.3 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no more business, Chair Bessette adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm.