

Sharra Frank Comment
Submitted to the Administrative Law Judge James R. Mortenson
concerning the Teacher Licensing

As a MN resident and parent of young elementary children who have been in a school that voluntarily implemented these changes without notification to parents, I oppose the proposed changes to the teacher license standards.

Here's part of a message I recently sent to a local parental rights organization about our experience.

"Our quaint K-8 Montessori school has implemented gender identity curriculums and confusing changes to the reproductive health lessons and materials, all without notifying parents.

They are using books in the classrooms (1-3rd grade and 4-6th grade, mixed aged classes) by author Cory Silverberg. I discovered through my research that this author founded the online sex shop "Come as You Are".

The adult sex store "for beginners" uses the same graphics, font, colors as used in his books for children. His educational books for children are sold in his sex shop along with gender affirming gear such as chest binders, sex toys and even adult coloring books.

One page of his book says that when a baby is born the doctor guesses the gender and can mistaken a "large clitoris for a small penis or a small penis for a large clitoris". This is one example of several confusing messages in "Sex is a Funny Word", which was distributed to the 4th-6th grade students.

The other classroom reproductive health books have very graphic and sometimes compromising illustrations of sex and genitalia. These were not communicated to parents before students had access to them.

The 4-8th grade students are required to share their pronouns to the class. I do not trust that there would be clear communication with me if my children were to decide on a different pronoun at school. Each teacher's discretion and personal bias will be different.

The first week of school last fall, my 5th grader came home distressed and asking if he was really born a boy and if he might grow breasts. This confusion was not coming from within, it was from the books in the classroom. I expressed my concerns to the teacher. My son was then worried that the teacher would think that he really was questioning his gender and felt that he needed to clarify. He asserted to his teacher that he was "male and straight". She continued to confuse him, telling him "there are many kinds of straight". That this was even a conversation between the two of them is highly inappropriate and the stress of it all interrupted his focus on what he was supposed to be in school for- academics.

In reproductive health class he was also taught that "anyone can have a period". The 4-6th grade children were told to divide into two groups- "people that have periods" and "people that don't" for part of the lessons. The language and terminology for has changed, erasing parental roles and women.

Children were consistently redirected after saying things like, "let's go boys!" to their classmates at recess because saying "boys" isn't inclusive.

In addition, my 2nd grader's teacher gave gender identity lessons to small groups followed by a story that reads as a 10 yr old's transgender memoir, "George", a book intended for middle schoolers, 6-8th grade. This happened at the end of March to celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility.

She read this book to a mixed age class of 1-3rd graders. This book extensively discusses the use medication and surgery to change your body to a different sex, pornography, body dysphoria, hiding web browser history from parents, feeling good wearing a friend's silky underwear and more. I only learned about this book being read from the teacher newsletter after the fact. After pointing out the reasons the book wasn't age appropriate the teacher apologized and stopped reading it to the entire class but finished reading it to a small group of 3rd graders.

If we hadn't experienced all of this first hand, I wouldn't understand the alarm and heightened concerns regarding these proposed changes. Most parents are so overwhelmed with helping their children catch up academically, it is difficult to take these other issues on.

I am still in absolute shock of what we went through. I addressed everything along the way with the teachers and lost trust in their judgment and abilities."

We have left this public school and are now homeschooling.