

January 30, 2005

Principal

Dear Principal :

I believe that one of the purposes of education is to provide children with the basic academic skills that they will need to survive and succeed in life. These skills include reading, writing and basic computational skills. From reading comes the ability to gather information. From basic computational skills comes the ability to reason logically and to develop critical thinking skills. Writing provides the mechanism to develop the ability to compile thoughts and ideas and to be able to articulate those ideas. A critical aspect of developing and articulating a strong and logical idea is access to the facts and all sides of an issue or idea. While these skills are developing, the preponderance of the facts and perspectives that students receive are those presented to them in the classroom. Consequently, it is critical that the schools ensure the facts and all perspectives are presented. It is my observation and consequently my concern that this is not the case regarding the homosexual issue.

A major misconception that I see in the comments and actions of the students is that there are only two positions on homosexuality. The perception is that one can either accept homosexuality in its entirety or one hates homosexuals. This is the perception provided by one side of the discussion. The facts show that homosexuality results in a very destructive life style. The life expectancy of an homosexual man is in the 40's as compared to the heterosexual male whose life expectancy is in the 70's (this is excluding the impact of AIDS which results in an even lower life expectancy). This is a greater detrimental impact on life expectancy than smoking. The homosexual life style often includes drug and alcohol abuse, physical abuse (usually from within the community as opposed to as a result of a "hate crime") and suicide. If one were to hate homosexuals then why would one attempt to preclude them from this self-destructive path? If you truly hate someone, then you would be much more inclined to let him destroy himself. If you did not care about people in the homosexual lifestyle, then you would do nothing. It is the great concern and love for others that motivates people to attempt to prevent people from taking that destructive path in life. Students should be taught to respect the rights of others, but also that one does not have to accept the ideas of another in order to respect them.

Children are being taught that homosexuality is normal and natural. It is neither. The homosexual community has admitted that the often stated 10% was an unsubstantiated and made up number. At the time the 10% number was being repeated, the actual number was approximately 2% of population were homosexual. Now, after years of homosexual activism, the number is still between 3 and 4%. In a conference that I attended on the subject, a psychologist stated that, in spite of all of the claims that it is normal, there is no normal childhood developmental model that results in homosexuality. This stuck me as very significant. If such a model did exist, it would certainly be part of the rhetoric. Regarding it being natural, all one has to do is look at the anatomy of the human body to see that it is contrary to the naturally designed functions of the human body. Even most homosexual community activists have ceased to claim that people are born homosexual, but now claim that people become homosexual by imprinting during early childhood development. To state that it is normal or natural is to promote the myth that accompanies the homosexual activist rhetoric. To stand by silently and allow the myth to persist is to enable it and to allow children to make decisions based on faulty information.

My challenge to you is to ensure that the students are presented with all of the facts and the spectrum of perspectives. I know that many schools in Fairfax County have brought in guest speakers to talk about

homosexual and transgender issues. It is my understanding that these have been speakers that have spoken in favor of the homosexual life style. The remaining viewpoints have been missing from the discussion. Allowing students to make decisions based after hearing only one side of an issue is more indoctrination than discourse.

There is a local group called Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX at www.pfox.org). Regina Griggs is the PFOX Executive Director and can be reached at Pfoxmom@pfox.org or 703-360-2225. She has offered to speak or provide speakers from the Ex-Gay perspective. As you might imagine, her perspective is one of great love and concern since she has people very close to her that are living in the homosexual lifestyle.

There is balanced literature such as "Respect and the Facts" that is published by the NEA Ex-Gay Educators Caucus. It is available online at <http://www.nea-exgay.org>. I have also enclosed a pamphlet by Concerned Women of America that provides facts regarding homosexuality. These types of materials should be available to teachers, guidance counselors and the students. Anything less would be discriminatory, and would deny educators and students all of the factual resources necessary in a fact-based learning environment.

There is also a video that is entitled "It's Not Gay." It is only 28 minutes long and portrays much of the truth about the homosexual lifestyle. The video is primarily narrated by ex-homosexuals. Even though one of those in the video has returned to the homosexual life style, I still believe that it provides a valid perspective of the issue. It discusses the reality as opposed to the "Will and Grace" version of homosexuality. It is my plan to try to get one to you. If I succeed, I hope that you will watch it and then share it with your staff. Some sections may not be appropriate for your students, but I hope that the appropriate sections would be shown to the students in your school.

I know how controversial this issue is. I also know that schools are in a very difficult position regarding what is said and done about this issue. However, children's futures are in the balance. The decisions they make today will have a great impact on their entire lives. Those decisions should be made based on the facts and the perspectives of all sides of the issue. I hope that you will ensure that the facts and perspectives from all sides are presented to the students in a way that is respectful of all involved. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance (that goes for any topic or issue).

Thank you for all that you do. The leadership that you provide will determine the success or failure of your school. I know the awesome responsibility that places on your shoulders.

Sincerely,

Steve Hunt
Fairfax County School Board
Member, At-large