

We respectfully attend this meeting tonight with concerns that teachers' personal biases and opinions are infiltrating our children's educations. We are aware of what is being exposed to our children in the classroom, and do not want these distractions to interfere with their education. Likewise, we are aware that there have been instances where students have been silenced about their opinions; in particular, their opinions regarding items that teachers may have in their classrooms that make their personal biases and opinions known. ALL students should be allowed to express their opinions, and should be encouraged to do so. Telling children that they can't voice their opinions, or making them feel uncomfortable about their personal beliefs and opinions is wrong. On the other hand, teaching children how they can *respectfully* voice their opinions is acceptable. Our children should be taught to be strong, NOT submissive individuals, as they are the future of our country. A teacher's job is to teach the content standards, while a parent's job is to help their children form their own beliefs and opinions.

We strongly feel that ONLY items that *directly relate* to the curriculum being taught in a particular classroom should be displayed, especially if any teacher's display of personal belief paraphernalia makes members of their class uncomfortable.

With that being said, the questions we have for the board are the following:

1. What is the plan going forward regarding items displayed in the classroom - who decides what is offensive or not offensive?
2. What personal belief propaganda/ displays are we going to allow in the classrooms?
3. Why does one student's opinion receive the support of their teacher or school administration, while another student's opinion gets silenced?
4. Who decides what constitutes harassment? If one student makes one comment one time with no direct target, is that harassment? If one student displays an item that offends another student, is that harassment? If one student is allowed to voice an opinion but another is not allowed to voice one that opposes it, is that harassment?

We strongly urge you to consider those students that are being distracted from obtaining the curricular education they are entitled to, or those that may be feeling uncomfortable (or even harassed) by being made aware of their teachers' personal belief systems that may or may not align with their own.

We have included some examples of situations that have occurred within our school.

We ask that you review the packet provided as well as the SD Core Curriculum Standards.

Thank you,

Brian and Angela Klein

Jessica Jewett

Judd and Kristina Krull

Cody Amdahl

Nick and Lachelle LeBrun

Don and Sherri Peters

Aaron and Bethany Thielsen

Daron and Jesselyn Christenson

Jason and Kathy Heinemann

Chris and Megan Neises

Marty and Rita Parsley

Troy and Michelle Kontz

Keith and Rebecca Hobbie

Luke Klein

Todd and Lisa Dietrich

Sandy Sheppard

Steve Christensen

Scott and Kirsten Thompson

Ernie and Allison Claflin

Jon and Tricia LeBrun

Chad Kneebone

Logan and Aubrey Rose

Lance and Loretta Iott

Kathryn Wiese

Lacey Iott

Jeremy and Kendra Eng

Dustin and Miranda Headrick

Corey and Lindsay Schoeberl

Ben and Brenna LeBrun