

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
1401 N. Handy Street, Building H
Orange, CA 92867

Wednesday, May 30 2018
6:00 p.m. – Special Meeting

MINUTES

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board President Deligianni called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Board members present: Deligianni, Lebsack, Ledesma, Moffat, Ortega, Surrige, Yamasaki
Board members absent:

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Deligianni led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion No. 1

It was moved by Mr. Ledesma, seconded by Mrs. Yamasaki, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to adopt the May 30, 2018 agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers

Nicole Jones commented that the information proposed in the pilot program curriculum is valuable as it helps students navigate through their middle school years and help their peers to relate to them.

Duaa Alwon stated that the Muslim community expects that people acknowledge and respect perspectives other than their own and she does not agree with how the proposed curriculum is being implemented.

Gheorghe Rosca spoke in opposition to the Teen Talk curriculum and thanked the Board for calling the special meeting to hear all views including the immigrant and minority.

Michelle Weisenberg spoke in support of the middle school health curriculum pilot program and listed facts regarding state law mandated comprehensive sexual health education in middle schools.

Suvan Geer commended the Board for providing the opportunity for community input and reminded the Board what this curriculum will actually do in providing factual and important information.

Hannah Weisenberg spoke in support of the middle school health curriculum pilot program and commented on what should be a part of the Comprehensive Sexual Health Program required by California Education Code.

Gary Lawrence, a public opinion pollster, noted that this is a “lousy piece of legislation” and gave the curriculum a B+. He urged the Board to review the curriculum and specify what teachers must and must not teach, that parents should get to know the teachers, and that legislators need to know what you think.

John Winkelman, M.D. stated that significant portions of Teen Talk is medically inaccurate and urged the Board to delay or postpone the implementation of the curriculum or correct the fallacies. He recommended researching medical sources for accurate medical information.

Monica Gutierrez stated that parents have to have communication with their kids and respect for them. She is in support of the curriculum to teach students about sexual education.

Daniel Leon-Barranco, LGBT club president at El Modena, urged change in the sex education curriculum to be more accurate, as much of it is misinformed.

J.J. Meis urged the Board to listen to the stakeholders of the District, to take advantage of the phenomenal staff. He added that he has great confidence in the process for vetting the curriculum;

Mindy Lima, stated she greatly values unbiased and medically accurate information and thanked the Board for their commitment to adequately represent the constituents

Bryanne Ngo commented that her concern is that this curriculum is taking parents’ right to decide what is appropriate to teach their children about sexual education, gender identity. She asked for postponement of the implementation to allow parents to provide input.

Natalie Myrick Relator shared a conversation she had and email correspondence with the Garden Grove Unified School District Superintendent indicating that GGUSD was not discussing or teaching anything that had to do with gender identity or sexual orientation. She encouraged OUSD not to participate in the proposed pilot program for sexual education.

Deborah Stapley belongs to a network created to help parents understand the problems created by the Health Youth Act and learn how they can, in tandem with their trustees, create the best possible outcome for their children.

Lisa Heyrend encouraged the Board to become more aware of what is in the curriculum and to take parent’s concerns into consideration.

Stephanie Yates stated that while she does not live in OUSD, she care about all the kids in Orange County. She encouraged the Board to postpone the implementation of the pilot program.

Karen Cohn questioned why there are so many people from outside the District questioning OUSD’s curriculum stating that the District must follow the California law.

Joe Imbriano made a public apology for the last video he put out for entitling the video, “When the Devil Runs the School District” as it applies to the state legislature. He stated that Teen Talk does not have to be implemented and urged the Board to look at other options, to delay the implementation of the pilot program.

Linda Cone lives outside the District but believes we are one and suggested OUSD take a slow and measured approach to the implementation of the pilot program.

Toma Davis stated she found a lot to value to the pilot program and is not opposed to it, but would like to see the medically inaccurate information corrected.

Michelle Connolly stated she has an issue with the curriculum that was formed in order to cover all the basis and there are areas that she is not comfortable with. She added that there needs to be updates to the medically inaccurate information.

Sharon St. Pierre commented on the mental health component and focused on the families that are not represented here, those who do not speak English and don't receive the correct information and don't understand their rights. She encouraged the Board educate the minority communities to better understand the curriculum.

Aileen Blakowski commented that the curriculum is feeding our children lies; there is no medical or psychological research to prove any DNA or genetic factor, but mostly an environmental or sociological impact. She urged a thorough review of the proposed curriculum.

Jessica Corson as an LBGQT student at El Modena High School, she wants everything to be medically accurate and inclusive for LBGQT students.

Danielle Jacobs commented that the newly adapted material has conformed to society and says that we need to be better informed; acceptance is not taught in one class period. She is not in favor of the proposed curriculum.

Sherry Avella, stated that learning about sexual identity will only protect our children – that it's not okay to bully.

Sandy Davidson commented that the biggest issue with the pilot program is the depth of information presented, which she feels is putting our children at risk. The curriculum needs to be comprehensive, but not too deep.

Laura Chopin commented that we have to be careful of what we teach because not all children have the same sexual feelings at the same age or level.

Zachary Cleberg commented on the agenda of the curriculum and suggested giving ourselves time to evaluate what is important to our community and parents. He urged the Board to postpone adopting the proposed pilot program and asked that anyone who has concerns to get engaged and involved about the curriculum.

Katy Barron applauded the District for teaching comprehensive sexual education. Children deserve to have the knowledge to make informed decisions to protect their health. Not talking about uncomfortable topics does not make it go away.

6. MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH CURRICULUM PILOT

Introduction

Board President Alexia Deligianni and Board Member Rick Ledesma requested a special meeting to

consider rescheduling the middle school health curriculum pilot until the fall of 2018. Dr. Hansen said a few words about the Board of Education who has listened intently to the community and that it has always been the District's focus to take in input on this curriculum. This is a new law that has come into play in 2016. There is a requirement to implement it and the Curriculum Department spent an entire year modifying the Teen Talk curriculum. There was a conscientious effort to correct many of the inaccuracies in the program and the District is open to continuing that effort to correct all inaccurate information. Dr. Hansen feels that the Board has demonstrated the leadership by listening to the community. She asked that the community and Board give the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services the opportunity to explain the District's program and then allow the Board to deliberate.

Presentation

Anne Truex gave an overview of the middle school health curriculum and shared some of the information about the middle school health pilot curriculum. The District's priorities has always been to protect parental rights and the District's maintains an opt-out preference for the 7th and 8th grade curriculum. It is the desire of the District to keep families well-informed as well a meet the state compliance of AB 329 law. Following the presentation, Ms. Truex stated that the next steps that had been planned was to survey students, parents and teachers and then form a focus group of three teachers, one parent representative and a site administrator from each of the four schools, and a District nurse to discuss the survey results. The curriculum would be shared with Curriculum Council to gather the feedback, and design and action plan to augment any lesson activities, if needed, and address any identified areas. Next would be to meet with the science teachers to plan the augmented lessons. Parent and community forums would also be facilitated at the middle schools. Information will be available on the District's website. Then the formal curriculum process would follow. Staff will take direction from the Board as to whether to continue with the planned implementation or make adjustments.

Dr. Hansen clarified a misunderstanding that the community may have. The middle school curriculum was written specifically over this year-long process and the Curriculum Department was very careful to integrate all the aspects of comprehensive sexual education into those ten hours of instruction. This is fully an opt-out and it is compliant with the law. The District believes in parental choice the curriculum is designed to allow a complete opt-out. Additionally, Dr. Hansen clarified that the District is very focused on parents and take seriously transparency in the curriculum process.

Board Discussion

Board discussion took place assuring the audience that the Board wants to represent the constituents, listen to the actual stakeholders in our District and be responsive to that community with particular attention and be responsive to the sensibilities of that community in particular. Following discussion, the Board suggested postponing the implementation to allow for the opportunity to further review the curriculum.

Motion No. 2

It was moved by Mr. Ledesma, seconded by Dr. Deligianni to delay implementing the middle school health curriculum until the fall 2018.

Board discussion ensued.

Motion No. 2 carried by a vote of 6-1 (No: Moffat) to delay implementing the middle school health curriculum until the fall 2018.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By call of the chair, the special meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



Timothy Surridge
Clerk of the Board