

North Central Parke Community School Corporation

602 Howard Avenue Rockville, IN 47872

Phone (765) 569-4190 - Fax (765) 569-4199



North Central Parke Community School Corporation endeavors to teach acceptance and respect toward all individuals. NCP CSC recognizes that parents have the ultimate responsibility when it comes to the instruction of their student, and appreciates the collaboration with families to help produce caring and respectful citizens who appreciate differences, while focusing upon the similarities that unite the community.

During the public comment time at the conclusion of the August 23rd, Special Meeting of the NCP CSC Board of Trustees, parents raised concerns regarding issues that were not on the agenda, for which the Board had little prior information. As such these concerns were heard by the Board, after which the members determined to have Superintendent Schimpf seek out additional information in order for a resolution to be found in regard to the situations described.

The nature of the comments and follow-up conversations with community members both after the meeting and in the day to follow centered upon questions regarding whether it was appropriate for the school to teach specific material or utilize specific content pertinent to gender identity and sexual orientation, and at what level in a student's PK-12 educational experience this information should or should not be introduced.

Indiana currently has no code requirement on teaching gender or sexual orientation to students, leaving these concepts to a local school board's discretion.

While the state of Indiana does not have a code requiring the inclusion of gender and sexual orientation as specific topics, there is code on teaching human sexuality, which appears pertinent, Indiana Code 20-30-5-13 (see **Appendix 1**). An additional code of significance is, Indiana Code 20-30-5-17 (see **Appendix 2**).

Most significantly, on July 1, 2018, Public Law 154 went into effect stating that parents must be informed if schools will be providing any form of instruction on human sexuality. As such, NCP CSC parents/guardians are given the opportunity to provide consent for instruction during school registration each year. Instruction provided is designed to be age-appropriate for grades, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and high school.

Parents/Guardians also have the right to inspect the materials and/or curriculum used for such instruction, as evidenced by Indiana Code. Parents wishing to review materials should set a meeting with the classroom teacher within a mutually acceptable timeframe.

For practical purposes if an NCP instructor, after consulting with their building level principal, knowingly intends to use curricular materials that may be construed to be related to human sexuality, sexual orientation, or assertions regarding gender identity, then they will be required to obtain parental consent before providing this material to students. Alternative assignments or activities will be provided as appropriate and aligned to the Indiana Department of Education's approved grade level curriculum in absence of parental consent.

Consistent with prior board guidance as evidenced in yearly registration materials: NCPSC will not provide instruction regarding human sexuality, sexual orientation, or assertions regarding gender identity to any student below 4th grade, except as requested by parents in collaboration with building level counselors or at the bequest of staff for purposes relevant to student safety, such as that which may require notification of the Child Protective Services.

Action Plan Moving Forward:

- **Three specific books were brought to the attention of the superintendent. These books have been removed.**
- **If a teacher knowingly provides other books that may be deemed as having to do with human sexuality, those books should also be removed, unless prior parental consent was provided.**
- **Books will be vetted by teachers prior to adding them to classroom wish lists or including them in instruction. Teachers will read books ahead of time, and share their reading lists with the building principals.**
- **After the vetting process, supplemental books will be shared with parents/guardians at their request.**
- **The school will set a time for parents/guardians to review materials.**

Appendix 1

Indiana Code 20-30-5-13 states:

Throughout instruction on human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases, a state accredited school shall:

- (1) require a teacher to teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard of all school age children;
- (2) include in the instruction that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems; and
- (3) include in the instruction that the best way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and other associated health problems is to establish a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage.

Appendix 2

Indiana Code 20-30-5-17 states:

Sec. 17. (a) Each school corporation shall make available for inspection by the parent of a student any instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, curricular materials, films or other video materials, tapes, and other materials, used in connection with:

- (1) A personal analysis, an evaluation, or a survey described in subsection (b): or
 - (2) Instruction on human sexuality.
- (b) A student shall not be required to participate in a personal analysis, an evaluation, or a survey that is not directly related to academic instruction and that reveals or attempts to affect the student's attitudes, habits, traits, opinions, beliefs, or feelings concerning:

- (1) political affiliations;
- (2) religious beliefs or practices;
- (3) mental or psychological conditions that may embarrass the student or the student's family;
- (4) sexual behavior or attitudes;
- (5) illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- (6) critical appraisals of other individuals for whom the student has a close family relationship;
- (7) legally recognized privileged or confidential relationships, including a relationship with a lawyer, minister, or physician; or
- (8) income (except as required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under a program);etc.