

The Importance of School Board Elections

There are many school boards and school districts to look to as examples of integrity, honesty and character. School Boards who genuinely put the concerns of parents and students first rather than their own personal agenda or the agenda of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

The **Astoria School Board** voted to deny a school-based health center (SBHC) in their high school given the concerns of parents. Parents believed the entire process was founded in deceit by proponents of a SBHC. One of their concerns was the loss of parental and community control and involvement. Other questions regarding accountability, quality assurance, and the real cost to taxpayers were never addressed.

The **Three Rivers School District** in Grants Pass opted-out of the "Healthy Teen Survey" after its content was brought to their attention. They found the questions intrusive, meddlesome and prying into issues that are private family matters and none of the OHA's or ODE's business.

Molalla School District, for example, looks very closely at any grants that come with federal strings attached and rejects those which they believe do not reflect the values of their community. The school board has rejected the sex ed curriculum from ODE, which is their legal right to do.

Public and private entities are vying for access to our children by way of health care through the public schools...in a very "benevolent and caring way". They use such slogans as "healthy kids learn better" or "healthy bodies, healthy minds" or "free confidential services" or "sex positive instruction". There is a deliberate blurring of the lines between education and health care.

Who, at the local level, can protect children from outside, and inside, negative influences while at school? When Planned Parenthood has insinuated themselves into the school's curriculum, who can help. Simple. Elect a school board that reflects the values, beliefs and character of that community, not one that acts as the puppet for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) or the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Regrettably, many school boards, while giving voice to reflecting community values, are instead rubber-stamping the agenda of the ODE and OHA and disregarding and disrespecting their responsibilities to parents and their concerns.

Oregon needs more school boards that are committed to their obligation of reflecting the values of the community as stated in [ORS 322.072](#). It is wonderful to see some school boards listening to the parents and guardians of their community and recognizing parental rights do not end when their child steps through the school door.