

## GERVAIS UPDATE

On September 17th the Gervais school board, in a 4 to 1 vote, passed the controversial Oregon Department of Education's recommended sex education curriculum and therefore considered themselves in compliance with Oregon's required health education standards.

Some of the topics the adopted curriculum covers: mutual masturbation between teens; how to make dental dams so teens can engage in oral sex; recognize the difference between a circumcised penis and an uncircumcised penis; learn the steps for effective condom use..."put the condom on when the penis is erect and before any contact between the penis and the partner's genitals, mouth or anus". Students may learn and be asked to define the following terms: gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, transgender, cisgender and the acronym LBGT. They may also learn myths and facts in the FLASH sex ed material. For example: "Many people, especially many young women, haven't yet figured out how to have an orgasm - what kinds of fantasy and what kinds of touching work for them...They may need direct touching of their clitoris to be able to have orgasms" (Myth & Fact Reference Cards 9-12).

The vote reflects a lack of respect by Superintendent Matt Henry, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and a majority of the school board members towards the parents in Gervais. The ODE and OHA appear to have an agenda to sexualize Oregon school children at the earliest possible age. The concerns of parents are often seen as unenlightened and dismissed.

According to school board member, LaFollett, they have been working on the sex ed policies for almost two years, giving the board ample time to review the sex ed curriculum. Which is ironic, since parents were only given from the middle of August until September 17th to review the curriculum. In order to review the curriculum, parents had to go to the school during working hours to look at the documents.

As we learned from parents in Gervais, there were multiple avenues available to inform parents regarding the availability of the proposed sex ed curriculum for review. No notices were sent home with students when school started, the school district's automated call system was not utilized, and only one or two notices were posted on the school website related to the sex ed curriculum.

So why didn't the district post a complete description of the actual sex ed curriculum on their website for all the parents to review? A question the school board and superintendent could easily answer.