

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rockville, Maryland

June 25, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Patricia O'Neill, Chair, Board of Education Policy Committee

Subject: Final Approval, Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*

On April 30, 2012, the Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) tentatively adopted the updated Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*. The tentatively adopted policy was distributed for public comment. Twenty-five comments were received from parents, teachers, a principal, and multiple nonprofit organizations. The comments reflected approximately an equal number of persons seeking no change to the policy versus persons seeking changes of varying degrees; however, the majority of the commenters recommending no change to the policy represented nonprofit organizations.

On June 11, 2012, the members of the Board of Education Policy Committee further discussed Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*. No additional changes were recommended by the committee; however, the committee emphasized the importance of an evaluation of the impact of this policy change on the school community. The committee remains concerned about the unintended consequences of the changes to the policy, such as increased volume of flyer distribution at elementary schools and age inappropriate material being distributed to elementary-aged children.

The Policy Committee's recommended changes to the tentatively adopted policy are reflected in the Committee Recommended Draft as Attachment A. Since there were no changes to the Draft for Public Comment, we have only included the Committee Recommended Draft. The public comments are summarized in Attachment B. The original public comments are included in Attachment C.

The following resolution is provided for your consideration:

WHEREAS, Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*, informs the public and staff about displaying and distributing printed informational material and announcements in schools; and

WHEREAS, The draft of Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*, was tentatively adopted by the Montgomery County Board of Education at its meeting on April 30, 2012, and was sent out for public comment; and

WHEREAS, The Montgomery County Board of Education has received comments and the Board of Education Policy Committee's recommendations; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Montgomery County Board of Education adopt Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*, as updated in the attached committee recommended draft.

Resolved, That after completion of the 2012–2013 school year, Montgomery County Public Schools shall conduct an evaluation regarding the impact and implications of this change in policy.

Present at the table for the discussion is Ms. Lori-Christina Webb, executive director, Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Schools.

PO:hp

Attachments

**ATTACHMENT A
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED DRAFT
CNA**

1 Related Entries: CNA-RA, JFA-RA, KEA, KEA-RA
2 Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent of Schools
3
4

5 Informational Material and Announcements
6
7

8 A. PURPOSE
9

10 To inform the public and staff about displaying and
11 distributing printed informational materials and
12 announcements.
13

14 B. ISSUE
15

16 To provide an appropriate mechanism for informing students and
17 parents about school and community activities and events in a
18 manner that does not unduly burden school staff.
19

20 C. POSITION
21

- 22 1. Display and Distribution of Printed Materials by
23 **Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Governmental**
24 **Agencies, Parent Teacher Associations (PTA)s,** and
25 certain parent teacher organizations
26

27 The following organizations shall be permitted to
28

**ATTACHMENT A
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED DRAFT
CNA**

29 distribute printed informational materials and
30 announcements directly to students through take-home
31 folders, backpacks, or similar manner or display printed
32 informational materials and announcements on any tables,
33 magazine racks, or similar areas as designated by the
34 school at any time during the school year:

- 35
- 36 a) MCPS;
 - 37
 - 38 b) Federal, state, or local governmental entities;
 - 39
 - 40 c) Nationally affiliated PTAs operating within MCPS
41 and **Montgomery County Council of PTAs**^{MCCPTA}; and
42
 - 43 d) Parent teacher organizations at special education
44 schools and alternative centers that operate in
45 lieu of nationally affiliated PTAs.
- 46

47 2. Display and Distribution of Printed Materials Provided by
48 Others

- 49
- 50 a) Other nonprofit community organizations ~~shall be~~
51 **are only** permitted to **directly** distribute ~~directly~~
52 **materials** to **elementary school** students. **Such**
53 **distribution may take place** through take-home
54 folders, backpacks, or similar manner. **Schools**
55 **shall provide opportunity for distribution** at least
56 twice a year and no more than once during each
57 marking period. **However, in accordance with**

58 Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) Policy
59 *KEA, Political Campaigns and Political Materials,*
60 such direct distribution methods may not be used to
61 distribute materials that advocate the passage or
62 defeat of any ballot or referendum question or
63 advocate the passage or defeat of any matter
64 pending before a local governing body, the Maryland
65 General Assembly, or the Congress of the United
66 States.

67
68 b) Community organizations or businesses shall be
69 permitted to display, at any time during the school
70 year, printed informational materials and
71 announcements on tables, magazine racks, or similar
72 areas ~~as may be~~ designated by **elementary, middle,**
73 **or high**the schools.

74
75 c) Materials provided for distribution or display by
76 organizations or businesses shall include the
77 disclaimer, "These materials are neither sponsored
78 nor endorsed by the Board of Education of
79 Montgomery County, the superintendent **of schools,**
80 or this school."

81
82 D. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

83
84 The superintendent **of schools** will develop reasonable
85 viewpoint-neutral regulations to implement this policy.
86

**ATTACHMENT A
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED DRAFT
CNA**

87 E. REVIEW AND REPORTING

88

89 This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of
90 ~~Education~~ policy review process.

91

92

93 *Policy History:* Adopted by Resolution No. 173-74, April 2, 1974;
94 reformatted by Resolution No. 333-86, June 12, 1986, and Resolution
95 No. 458-86, August 12, 1986, and accepted by Resolution No. 209-91,
96 February 25, 1991; amended by Resolution No. 459-04, July 29, 2004;
97 amended by Resolution No. 428-06, August 30, 2006.

Summary of Responses to
Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*

Public Response Number	Commentator	Issue/Concern Line #'s refer to the Draft for Public Comment	Staff Response Line #'s refer to the Committee Recommended Draft
1	Juliet Gardner, parent	The ban on flyers should extend to elementary schools. Students are already bringing home too many flyers.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
2	Concerned Catholic students and their friends and families	Concerned about the distributed flyers being sent out by the Unitarian Church. Concerned parties feel intimidated and threatened by the nature of the flyers.	<p>In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i>, that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.</p> <p>All criteria for distributing informational material in accordance with Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and</i></p>

Public Response Number	Commentator	Issue/Concern Line #'s refer to the Draft for Public Comment	Staff Response Line #'s refer to the Committee Recommended Draft
			<i>Announcements</i> , must be content neutral.
3	Ami Rorrer, parent	All advertising at all levels in the public schools should be eliminated. Would like an opt-out option for parents.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
4	Patrick Dunn	Agrees with the changes in the policy.	
5	Cheryl Clark, principal	<p>Not certain that using the human resources necessary to distribute flyers to children’s backpacks is in the best interest of the students or any schools.</p> <p>Do not agree that it is the school’s responsibility to support and endorse nonprofit organizations by providing them access to children’s backpacks.</p>	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
6	Cindy Salah, parent	Agrees with the changes in the policy.	

Public Response Number	Commentator	Issue/Concern Line #'s refer to the Draft for Public Comment	Staff Response Line #'s refer to the Committee Recommended Draft
7	Nora Blau, retired teacher	Distributing all of the notices was a waste of time.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
8	Michael Hurst	Concerned about section C.2b. This section provides “unfettered” access to our students from any organization or business that wishes to “advertise” to the students/staff within each school. Would like to require such organizations or businesses to have some monetary or personal interest in each school, i.e. sponsorship or attending student.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
9	Christina Popowych-Ebert, teacher	Agrees with the changes in the policy.	

Public Response Number	Commentator	Issue/Concern Line #'s refer to the Draft for Public Comment	Staff Response Line #'s refer to the Committee Recommended Draft
10	Lynn Usui, retired teacher	Considering a ban on nonprofit flyers because of a controversial flyer is a very dangerous decision. To ban any views that are contrary to what is politically correct at any given time is wrong on many levels.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
11	Karen J. Shimp, parent	Opposed to the changes in the policy. Finds it invaluable to have information about extracurricular activities, sports, Scouts, and other community events.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.

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12	Susan Marler, parent	<p>Information that is sent home with our children should be related to teaching our children academics and helping them learn good characteristics of becoming good citizens.</p> <p>Agrees with the changes in the policy.</p>	<p>In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i>, that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.</p> <p>All criteria for distributing informational material in accordance with Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i>, must be content neutral.</p>

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13	Brandt Pasco	Request that the Board not ban backpack flyer distribution. The Board should explore other mechanisms other than a blanket ban that could be used to prevent inappropriate use of backpack fliers.	<p>In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i>, that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.</p> <p>All criteria for distributing informational material in accordance with Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i>, must be content neutral.</p>
14	Patrick Egan, Ph.D.	<p>Supports the policy.</p> <p>Believes that allowing nonprofit organizations to directly distribute material to elementary school students is imprudent and irresponsible.</p> <p>Community organizations and business should not be permitted to display their material at any time. School is not the place for politics and marketing.</p>	<p>In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i>, that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.</p>

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15	Danisha Crosby, Associate Producer, Director of Education & Outreach Program	Alarmed by the detrimental impact the ban on flyers would have to the middle and high school students who could benefit from the summer arts program at the Round House Theater.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
16	Surjeet Ahluwalia, Director of Operations, AALEAD	After-school providers operating in a school should be added to the list of organizations allowed to distribute materials and announcements.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
17	Michelle Martineau Green, Executive Director, Montgomery Child Care Association	Supports the policy.	

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18	Ana Sol Gutierrez	The following requirement should be added to the policy. "All materials and announcements that are sent home to non-English speaking households shall be translated into Spanish and/or whatever other languages are predominant in that school community. Alternatively, translations of materials, announcements, and similar information must be prepared and made easily and readily available to non-English speaking parents upon request."	All materials and announcements are delivered to the school prepared and ready to be distributed. The organizations sending the materials would be responsible for translating the materials to be sent home.
19	Susan Jenkins, CEO, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County	Would like MCPS to reconsider restricting flyer distribution from qualified nonprofits to middle and high school students and allow the cultural community to continue providing services to Montgomery County's youth.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.

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20	John C. Hanson, Area Vice President of Mission Impact of the National capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America	<p>Boy Scouts of America should be included in the flyers allowed to be sent home to students. This is one organization that makes a positive impact on the youth of Montgomery County.</p> <p>As one of the many organizations making a positive impact on the youth of Montgomery County, we hope the Board of Education sees the merit in allowing parents and students every opportunity to become aware of and involved with activities that promote personal growth, boy leadership, outdoor life as well as civic responsibility.</p>	<p>In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i>, that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.</p>
21	Laurie Halverson, parent	<p>Boy Scouts of America should be included in the flyers allowed to be sent home to students.</p> <p>As one of the many organizations making a positive impact on the youth of Montgomery County, we hope the Board of Education sees the merit in allowing parents and students every opportunity to become aware of and involved with activities that promote personal growth, boy leadership, outdoor life as well as civic responsibility.</p>	<p>In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i>, that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.</p>

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22	Geoffrey E. Wolfe, parent	Commenter urges that Scouts and other nonprofit nongovernmental organizations continue to have access to youth and their families through the “backpack mail.”	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.
23	Tom Hearn, parent	Opposes the proposed changes to the policy. The current channel for distributing information to Montgomery County Public Schools families is an important way to pass on needed information about concussions in high school football and other sports.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.

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24	Stephanie Kreps, co-founder Rainbow Youth Alliance of Montgomery County	Commenter concerned about certain flyers that were anti-gay and hurtful to students. Commenter believes that full information that homosexuality is a part of the continuum of normal human sexual response should be taught to all students in our schools regardless of the decision about the flyer program.	Comments will be shared with the Board of Education and the superintendent of schools.
25	Michael J. Bobbitt, Producing Artistic Director, Adventure Theatre MTC	Would like Adventure Theatre MTC to be allowed to distribute in the “middle and upper” schools.	In balancing concerns about the use of staff time and resources with community desire to receive information, the Board of Education has proposed a compromise to Policy CNA, <i>Informational Material and Announcements</i> , that will allow flyers to be distributed in elementary schools only. The impact of these changes will be evaluated at the end of the 2012–2013 school year.

ORIGINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

POLICY CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: King, Suzann M - BOE Office
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 9:21 AM
To: Williams, Stephanie P; Potosky, Harriet E.
Cc: Rose, Glenda
Subject: FW: flyer ban: why leave out elem. schools?

Suzann M. King
Staff Assistant, Policy and Communications
Office of the Board of Education

Phone: 301-279-3617
Fax: 301-279-3860
Email: Suzann_M_King@mcpsmd.org

From: O'Neill, Patricia
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 8:45 AM
To: King, Suzann M - BOE Office
Subject: Fw: flyer ban: why leave out elem. schools?

Please keep this email as comment on the policy.

From: Stephen Gardner [mailto:gardnersj@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 08:26 AM
To: O'Neill, Patricia
Subject: flyer ban: why leave out elem. schools?

Dear Ms. O'Neill,

I just read the article in the Gazette that the board plans to ban flier advertising in middle and high schools only and I would like to know why you are leaving out elementary schools. My 2 sons bring home at least 20 pages of fliers on the "flyer days" (that's more than 40 pages of paper to recycle) and it will only get worse if advertisers can only advertise in elementary schools. Unless these advertisers are paying the schools to advertise for them, I don't see it as an effective use of teacher time to hand out all that paper. And I really don't see why the ban would not extend to elementary schools as the same type of offensive material that sparked you to consider the ban in the first place can still make it to children (who can read) through elementary schools.

Thanks,
Juliet Gardner
Kensington Parkwood Elementary Parent

①

AA 2017-12

April 18, 2012

Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RECEIVED
APR 19 2012
OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Dr. Starr;

For the past couple of years, the Unitarian Church has cosponsored a flyer that has been distributed in school (please see enclosed copies). The first time we read the flyer we felt very upset and hurt. With continued yearly distribution of these flyers we have come to feel even more upset, intimidated and even threatened. As Catholics, we feel very attacked by the words in these flyers. We have spoken with some of our friends from other religions and denominations and find that we are not the only ones upset; they also have found that they are reluctant to speak freely after reading these flyers. These flyers label denominations which hold beliefs different from theirs as “struggling with old theological interpretations”. The only struggle we feel is the constant ridicule of our beliefs by people who make statements like this and the hurt that comes from these attacks. We do not know who in the public school system is in support of these attacks, we do not know if they are from one student or a group of students, one teacher or a group of teachers, someone working in or around the building or elsewhere in the school system. This makes us fearful to speak or write anything that reflects our ideals or beliefs, discuss books or movies we’ve seen, mention our extra-curricular activities; it even affects what clothes we wear. We feel very hurt and intimidated by these flyers and ask that, as superintendent, please will you address this situation, so that truly every point of view and everyone may feel welcome and respected no matter what their religious beliefs may be.

Sincerely,

Concerned Catholic students and their friends and families

cc: MCPS Board of Education members
Archdiocese of Washington
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION FROM PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS (PFLAG) - METRO DC CHAPTER

Many families have gay members. And it is love and understanding that enables those families to flourish. PFLAG is here to help. The purpose of this flyer is to provide you with information you and your family members should find useful, particularly when confronted by myths about what it means to be gay.

What do the mainstream medical and mental health professional associations say about sexual orientation?

They all agree that if you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning, there is nothing wrong with you. For example, the American Academy of Pediatrics -- the mainstream professional association for pediatricians -- informs us that homosexuality is not a mental disorder, and further concludes that:

- **Sexual orientation is not a choice; that is, individuals do not choose to be homosexual or heterosexual, nor is it something "that voluntarily can be changed."**
- There is no scientific evidence that abnormal parenting, sexual abuse, or other adverse life events influence sexual orientation.
- Gay and lesbian individuals can be successful parents themselves.

Source: <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;113/6/1827>

How does religion fit into this? Many religious denominations and congregations are completely affirming of LGBT people, and Metro DC PFLAG can refer you to information specific to your own religion, including local gay-friendly congregations. While there are denominations that are struggling with old theological interpretations regarding sexual orientation and identity, it is important to know that there are faith communities that are welcoming.

Why are people gay? What does the medical community say about so-called reparative "therapies"? The AAP reports that while it is not known precisely what causes people to be gay, recent research has led scientists to favor "biologically based theories." The American Psychological Association's publication *Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators, and School Personnel* (<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/just-the-facts.pdf>) notes that the "nation's leading professional medical, health, and mental health organizations do not support efforts to change young people's sexual orientation through therapy and have raised serious concerns about the potential harm from such efforts." **Indeed, the American Medical Assn. explicitly opposes "therapies" based on the incorrect premise that gay people are ill or that they should change their sexual orientation.** See <http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=503> (AMA Resolution (H-160.991 Health Care Needs of the Homosexual Population)

Many gay people and their families seek help in working through their feelings about coming out as gay, and also as transgender. Metro DC PFLAG sponsors support groups in which families help one another through this journey. We also have information on private therapists and counselors who are supportive and are experienced in dealing with these issues.

For more information, contact METRO DC PFLAG at (202) 638-3852, www.pflagdc.org or info@pflagdc.org. Ask for our special brochure for parents, *Our Daughters and Sons*. You can also call our Helpline at (301)-439-3524, or call The Trevor Project's 24/7 Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Other groups you may find useful are the Rainbow Youth Alliance (uucr.org/rainbow.php), Rockville Open House (rockvilleopenhouse.org), and the Family Acceptance Project (familyproject.sfsu.edu).

Metro DC PFLAG is a 501c3 charitable non-profit organization

NOTE: These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the Superintendent, or the administration, staff or faculty of this school.

Providing Safe and Supportive Environments for LGBT Youth

Founded in 1991 by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Teaching Tolerance promotes and supports safe environments for all students, including those who are or are perceived to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT). Teaching Tolerance can provide: resources for parents and students, films for community or club screenings, tips for creating safe and respectful environments for LGBT students, book recommendations for your school library, and materials about the rights of LGBT youth, the adolescent development of sexual orientation, and dispelling myths about homosexuality.

What is "ex-gay" therapy?

"Ex-gay" or "reparative" therapy refers to counseling and psychotherapy that attempts to eliminate a person's gay sexual orientation. The most important fact about these "therapies" is that they are based on a view of homosexuality that has been rejected by all the major health professional organizations. The nation's leading professional medical, health, and mental health organizations do not support efforts to change young people's sexual orientation through therapy and have raised serious concerns about the potential harm from such efforts.

Do attempts to change a person's sexual orientation work?

Simply put, no. The American Psychological Association (APA) has determined: "There is simply no sufficiently scientifically sound evidence that sexual orientation can be changed." The APA has also expressed concern that the aggressive promotion of efforts to change gay sexual orientation "create an environment in which prejudice and discrimination can flourish." The nation's leading professional medical, health, and mental health organizations do not support efforts to change young people's sexual orientation through therapy and have raised serious concerns about the potential harm from such efforts.

Like most heterosexual youths, most lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths are healthy individuals who have significant attachments to and make contributions to their families, peers, schools and religious institutions. However, lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth must also cope with the prejudice, discrimination, and violence in society. Efforts to change a young person's gay sexual orientation risk causing depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior, since they present views of homosexuality that may reinforce self-hatred caused by societal prejudice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES, YOU MAY CONTACT
Teaching Tolerance (www.tolerance.org)
Equality Maryland Foundation (www.equalitymaryland.org)

*Information in this flyer was adapted from "Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth," available at www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/just-the-facts.pdf.

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, or this school.

**Equality
Maryland**

**TEACHING
TOLERANCE**

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TOLERANCE.ORG



Metro DC PFLAG is a 501c3 charitable non-profit organization

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TO: PARENTS

**FROM: PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS (PFLAG)
- METRO DC CHAPTER**

RE: IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

If your child tells you that he or she is gay, lesbian, or bi-sexual, first remember that you love your child. To preserve (and even strengthen) your relationship with your child, know that you can move toward understanding and, eventually, acceptance. Remember that you are not alone. Many families have gay members, and PFLAG is here to help. (*Note: From this point on, the word "gay" refers to non-heterosexuals.*)

What do the mainstream medical and mental health professional associations say about sexual orientation? The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), in a report available at <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics:113/6/1827>, encourages its members to "[b]e supportive of parents of adolescents who have disclosed that they are not heterosexual," and endorses referring families to local PFLAG chapters. The AAP notes that the American Psychiatric Assn. states that "homosexuality [is] . . . not a mental disorder," and the AAP further concludes that:

"Sexual orientation is not a choice; that is, individuals do not choose to be homosexual or heterosexual," nor is it something "that voluntarily can be changed."

"There is no scientific evidence that abnormal parenting, sexual abuse, or other adverse life events influence sexual orientation."

"Gay and lesbian individuals can be successful parents themselves."

Doesn't religion teach that homosexuality is wrong? Regardless of parental religious beliefs, it is vital that all children feel loved by their parents. Some religions still condemn homosexuality, but others are completely affirming, while others still are struggling with old theological interpretations. Metro DC PFLAG can refer you to information specific to your own religion, including local gay-friendly congregations.

Why is my child gay? Should I take my child to therapy? The AAP reports that while it is not known precisely what causes people to be gay, recent research has led scientists to favor "biologically based theories." The American Psychological Assn.'s *Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators, and School Personnel* – a publication expressly developed for school personnel and endorsed by 13 other organizations, including the American School Counselors Assn., the National Assoc. of School Psychologists, and the AAP – notes that "the nation's leading professional medical, health, and mental health organizations do not support efforts to change young people's sexual orientation through therapy and have raised serious concerns about the potential harm from such efforts." <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/just-the-facts.pdf> Indeed, the American Medical Assn. explicitly opposes "therapies" based on the incorrect premise that gay people are ill or that they should change their sexual orientation. See AMA Policy Number H-160.991 *Health Care Needs of the Homosexual Population*, available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/14754.html>.

Many gay people and their families seek help in working through their feelings about coming out. Metro DC PFLAG sponsors support groups in which families help one another through this journey. We also have information on private therapists and counselors who are supportive and are experienced in dealing with these issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OUR METRO DC PFLAG OFFICE AT (202) 638-3852, or go to www.pflagdc.org or e-mail info@pflagdc.org. Ask for our special brochure for parents, *Our Daughters and Sons* or our chapter's flyer *Answers to Parent's Questions*. You can also call our Helpline at (301) 439-3524. Our office is located at 1701 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. We are located on the 2nd floor of the Elizabeth Taylor Center of the Whitman Walker Clinic.

Rainbow Youth Alliance is a sponsored program of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, a tax-exempt church organization

NOTE: These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, or this school

Rainbow Youth Alliance

Things to Think About for Questioning Youth: Talking About Gay, Lesbian, Transgender or Bisexual Feelings

"I think I might be gay or lesbian."

If you are having feelings like this, it is not unusual or wrong. People who are gay, lesbian or another minority sexual orientation are part of the normal range of humanity. If you feel like you want to talk about it with someone, such as a family member or other trusted adult, you may want to look at *Read This Before Coming Out to Your Parents*, at <http://www.bmoreproud.org/students/tool/COMING OUT TO PARENTS.pdf>

You may find that your family and friends are understanding and supportive. Or you may find that they are surprised and have difficulty accepting what you want to talk about.

It's possible that you will face some teasing and harassment at school. There is a new law in Maryland that specifically prohibits harassment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teens in schools. Your school is now required to take action if you are verbally or physically harassed. If you are harassed, you should write down the circumstances, including the day, time and location of the incidents, who was there and exactly what happened. Tell your counselor immediately. Send a copy of your report to the principal. You absolutely have the right to feel safe in your school.

"Is there anywhere I can go for support?"

If your school has a Gay-Straight Alliance, you can go to the meetings or find the teacher who is the sponsor of the GSA club and talk to him or her privately. He or she should be able to tell you what the meetings are about and help you decide whether you want to attend.

In Montgomery County, there is also the Rainbow Youth Alliance (RYA), a support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teens and their allies ages 14 - 18. It is free. RYA will give you the opportunity to talk about your situation, concerns and feelings with other teens in a safe, confidential and supportive environment, meet new friends, and have some fun, too. There is no promotion of religious beliefs. The meetings are held from 3:45 to 6 PM on the first and third Sundays of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, a few blocks from Montgomery College in Rockville. You don't need to ask if you can come. Just show up. You will be welcomed. Further info: <http://www.uucr.org/rainbow.php>.

If your parents want to know more, show them the other side of this sheet, which provides information from the Metro DC Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Give people time to understand. You may have been thinking about this for a while but to others it may seem like a new side of you.

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Ami Rorrer <alrorrer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 5:27 PM
To: BOE
Subject: Advertising

I think all advertising at all levels in public schools should be eliminated all together. The stacks of papers sent home in backpack are a distraction and often bury important educational information or homework. Companies wishing to advertise to students and parents should contact PTA and pay for advertising spots in school directories, set up advertising links on the PTAs web site for each school - work with PTA to plan fundraising events that allow companies to advertise or resort to good old fashion best practices marketing by using the postal services and mailing direct marketing materials to community members. I would hope for an opt out options that allows me, with 3 MCPS students to opt out - save a tree!

Sent from my iPhone

3

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Patrick Dunn <patrickdunn65@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 5:29 PM
To: BOE
Subject: revisions to Board Policy CNA, Informational Material and Announcements

Dear Board of Education Members,

I think you have done a good job balancing the desire to continue elementary school informational material distribution with a need to limit distribution of potentially hurtful literature at the MS and HS level, as recently experienced by MCPS students.

Regards,
Patrick Dunn
17745 Overwood Dr
Olney 20832

4

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Clark, Cheryl
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 5:29 PM
To: BOE
Subject: Informational Material Policy

I'm not certain that using the human resources necessary to distribute flyers to children's backpacks is in the best interest of students or any school. For young students in particular, adult help is required to distribute and pack notices and flyers to go home. With resources already very thin in schools I would support taking this off of the responsibility of school staff and the parent volunteers who could spend the time working with students or supporting the instructional program as an alternative. I'm not certain that I agree that it is a school's responsibility to support and endorse non-profit organizations by providing them access to children's backpacks.

Cheryl Clark
Principal
Lois P. Rockwell Elementary School
301-253-7088

5

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Cindy Salah <cmsalah@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 8:59 AM
To: BOE
Cc: John Salah
Subject: flyers distribution policy change

Hi,

I am excited to hear that the flyers would NO longer be passed out in middle and high school. I believe there are non-profit organizations that are taking advantage and have no place putting their info out there for our children in an educational setting. The topic is already covered in health class. No extra info is needed, besides it is covered in the news quite regularly and unfortunately in almost every evening sitcom. I think homosexuals have more than enough air time!

Also, please give our principals a break! They do not need to spend precious education time doing this or their staff. We are trying to prepare our children for college and life. We need as much of the day to focus on academics as possible without soo many distractions like this one. My daughter's school day was affected negatively regarding the LGBT flyer. Not only was there a flyer but also a day of silence and signing some sort of petition. This took away from her education. Students were bugging her all day! Too much politics and such a contraversial issue to do in high school. My family and others I spoke with were very offended by this flyer! Medically speaking, the flyer wasn't even correct. There is no such thing as a gay gene! Many doctors have and can confirm this! Stop letting our children be guinea pigs for these type of organizations.

If we don't change the policy then other organizations are going to join in and it can become pretty ugly. Please protect our students from this nonsense.

Thanks, Mrs. Cindy Salah (Mont. Co. Parent)

6

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: nora blau <hanora99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 9:47 AM
To: BOE
Subject: Informational Notices

As a retired Kindergarten teacher, I would like to mention that I felt I wasted a lot of time and effort distributing all those notices.

7

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Michael Hurst <mdhurst@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 3:18 PM
To: BOE
Subject: re: Comment Sought on Informational Material Policy

Hello,

In regards to this policy, and having not seen the previous policies, I'm somewhat concerned about the language in section C.2b.

It appears that section C.2b provided unfettered access to our students from any organization or business that wishes to 'advertise' to the students/staff within each school.

I would like to see some other language that would require such organizations or businesses to have some monetary, or personal interest in each school. i.e. Sponsorship, or attending student.

Thanks.

8

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Popowych-Ebert, Christina
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 3:25 PM
To: BOE
Subject: response to revisions to Board Policy CNA, Informational Material and Announcements.

Thank you for the notice to the revisions.

I have read the draft to the revisions to Board Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements* and I find that it is a reasonable revision. It seems fair and reasonable that nonprofit organizations can still display their information in middle and high schools in a designated area. I teach in a high school and this solution should cut down on unnecessary paper usage, in general (IB – think globally), and paper litter in the classroom. Also at the high school level, students should be given the right to choose or not choose to take home information from nonprofit organizations.

"67 Community organizations or businesses shall be
68 permitted to display, at any time during the school
69 year, printed informational materials and
70 announcements on tables, magazine racks, or similar
71 areas as may be designated by **elementary, middle,**
72 **or high schools.**"

Sincerely,

Christina Popowych-Ebert,
Science & Physics Teacher
John F. Kennedy High School
301-926-5954 (v-mail)

9

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: lynnsu@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 7:25 PM
To: BOE
Subject: Urgent Attention Requested

Dear Board of Education,

Considering a ban on nonprofit fliers because of a controversial flyer sent home by Parents & friends of Ex-Gays and Gays is a very dangerous decision. While there are a number of people who disagree with the flyer that was sent home, it is still an opinion. If we silence one opinion over another than we are treading on dangerous ground.

We would be back in the day when flyers or information about Marin Luther King could not be sent home. Or, lets go back to when there had to be underground newspapers to disagree with the Loyalists...and people were afraid to openly express their views supporting the American Revolution. What the suppression of opinions disagreeing with Hitler? Do we want to support those practices? If so then we have "not come a long way baby"?

Do we ban all nonprofit flyers in an attempt to suppress flyers that may not be politically correct? Remember racism was once politically correct...and banning literature against racism was wrong then and it would be wrong now. To ban any views that are contrary to what is politically correct at any give time is simply wrong on many levels!

Consider the message you are giving our youth. "We will suppress that which is controversial."

Let's keep our country and county free.

Lynn Usui, retired teacher

10

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Sequeira, Martha on behalf of BOE
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 1:13 PM
To: Potosky, Harriet E.; Rose, Glenda
Subject: FW: Board Policy CNA, Informational Material and Announcements

Martha C. Sequeira
Administrative Secretary
Office of The Board of Education
301-279-3617
Fax: 301-279-3860
Martha_Sequeira@mcpsmd.org

From: Karen J Shimp [mailto:shimpy4@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 12:11 PM
To: BOE
Subject: Board Policy CNA, Informational Material and Announcements

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the proposed changes to this policy. As the parent of two elementary school students, I find it invaluable to have information about extracurricular activities, sports, Scouts, and other community-events come home with my students. Under the proposed changes, I will lose that resource once my children graduate to middle and high schools – yet that is precisely when it will become even more important to be fully informed about the variety of opportunities that may be available to my students.

It is my understanding that this proposed change is being driven by complaints about material some considered inappropriate that was distributed on a recent flyer day. The appropriate response is to assess whether in fact the material WAS offensive or violated any rules. If it was, then obviously that vendor should be banned from participating in future flyer days. If not, then those offended are free to shred, recycle, or burn the material. Alternatively, if the material did not violate current rules but was truly controversial or offensive, revising the rule to deal with the specific type of issue would be a rational and appropriate response. Cutting out the ability of others to distribute information in an economical, efficient, parent-friendly manner is NOT the answer, but rather is the type of over-reaction that has led to much ridicule of schools nationally.

I understand that this material would still be available in 'designated areas' of middle and high schools, so that arguably the students will still have a way to find information and bring it home. This is not a real solution, as any parent of a middle or high school student knows. Only the most self-starting students will seek out information, yet it's the non-self-starters (like at least one of my children) who most often benefits from the parent knowing about – and thus bringing the student's attention to – opportunities the student would not otherwise have known existed.

I respectfully request that the revision as currently proposed be voted down.

Karen
301 792 3481

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Sequeira, Martha on behalf of BOE
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 2:16 PM
To: Potosky, Harriet E.
Cc: Rose, Glenda
Subject: FW: Informational Material Policy

fyi

Martha C. Sequeira
Administrative Secretary
Office of The Board of Education
301-279-3617
Fax: 301-279-3860
Martha_Sequeira@mcpsmd.org

From: Susan Marler [mailto:susanmarler8@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 12:19 PM
To: BOE
Subject: Informational Material Policy

Dear MCPS Board of Education,

I agree that some action should be taken so that students and schools are not the method of dispersing flyers regarding controversial sexual issues, such as the flyer that was distributed with the last report card. It was inappropriate that the flyer from "PFLAG" regarding lesbians and gays was distributed by our children. It was definitely not a "viewpoint neutral" flyer. It was also in conflict with the mcps policy regarding sexual orientation information that only definitions are given, with no bias of what is right or wrong. The flyer was definitely a biased opinion of one side of a controversial issue.

Basically, information that is sent home with our children, and the time spent by our school staff to distribute this information should be related to teaching our children academics (reading, writing, math) and helping them learn good characteristics of becoming good citizens (such as be honest, work hard). I support the distribution of materials such as community basketball, baseball, and soccer leagues, and also information about local cub scouts, boy scouts and girls scouts and hope that the proposed revisions does not limit that at any level (elementary, middle or high school)

I agree with the proposed revisions that mcps should not distribute any materials related to ballot or referendum questions. Basically that it will not distribute material that presents certain viewpoints on issues. This should apply to all levels (elementary, middle and high school). The flyer that came home with the last report card was definitely related to ballot/referendum questions and matters pending before a local governing body, thus it should not have been allowed. In addition to not providing free distribution of political information, I would suggest adding that MCPS not provide free distribution of material regarding sexuality. Thus MCPS should not provide free advertising for political or sexual opinions.

Thank you,
Susan Marler

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Sequeira, Martha on behalf of BOE
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Potosky, Harriet E.; Rose, Glenda
Subject: FW: Backpack Mail

FYI

Martha C. Sequeira
Administrative Secretary
Office of The Board of Education
301-279-3617
Fax: 301-279-3860
Martha_Sequeira@mcpsmd.org

From: Pasco, Brandt [mailto:Brandt.Pasco@kayescholer.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 12:48 PM
To: BOE
Subject: Backpack Mail

My name is Brandt Pasco, and I am a constituent and voter who lives at 9015 Honeybee Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817. I respectfully request that the Board of Education not ban backpack flier distribution.

I understand that the Board is concerned about this issue, at least in part, because certain outside organizations have recently chosen to distribute backpack flyers related to sexual orientation and policy debates about sexual orientation that may not be appropriate for children. I share the Board's concern in this regard, and do not think it appropriate for outside groups to be using school resources in an effort to inform children about sexual matters without their parents consent.

That said, backpack fliers play an important role in the life of the school, providing a safe way for information to be distributed to families without needing to disclose otherwise personal information (such as the name and address of school children). Without backpack fliers, it would be much more difficult for parents who work during the day to be as reliably informed about extracurricular opportunities and clubs that enrich their children's lives and enhance the school community in meaningful ways. It would be unfortunate if inappropriate use of backpack fliers by some irresponsible organizations poisoned a valued way that our family interacts with other families in our school community.

Accordingly, my hope is that the Board will explore mechanisms other than a blanket ban that could be used to prevent inappropriate use of backpack fliers. For example, a minimally intrusive option would be to ban fliers that relate to sexual issues. This subject matter based approach would seem to be in line with other school polices, such as requiring parental consent for certain sexual education activities. If the school feels the need to inform parents prior to teaching children about sexual activity, it stands to reason that the school would not wish to become a conduit for outside and unaccountable groups to reach out to school children on sexual issues. An alternative, and somewhat more restrictive option would be to only allow distribution of flyers to groups that meet certain gate keeping criteria. For example, the Board could adopt a standard that allowed only congressionally chartered entities access to backpack flier distribution. This would allow the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts continued access, while eliminating many other groups. There are doubtless many other standards that could be adopted and applied in an objective way that would prevent abuse of backpack fliers, while still protecting access by organizations that strengthen the broader school community by informing students and parents about extracurricular activities.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter.

Best,

Brandt Pasco

Brandt Pasco

KAYE SCHOLER LLP

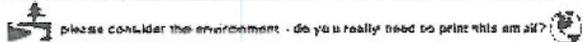
The McPherson Building

901 Fifteenth Street, NW

Washington | District of Columbia 20005-2327

Direct: 202.682.3519 | Fax: 202.414.0343

brandt.pasco@kayescholer.com | www.kayescholer.com



* * * *

IRS CIRCULAR 230 DISCLOSURE: To ensure compliance with Treasury Department regulations, we inform you that any U.S. federal tax advice contained in this correspondence (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used for the purpose of (i) avoiding penalties that may be imposed under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

10161 Treble Ct
Rockville, MD 20850

May 15, 2012

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Starr:

I am writing to express my support for the revision to the *Informational Material and Announcements* policy ("the flyer policy"). When I read about the incident that led to this proposed revision, I was disturbed not only by the fact that partisan organizations had direct access to children's backpacks, but also because opposing factions were apparently free to conduct their ideological wars across children's minds.

While I support the proposed revision, I wish to make two comments on the insufficiencies in the Draft for Public Comment ("the Draft"):

- We should protect the youngest children from partisan influences. The proposed revision still allows nonprofit organizations to *directly* distribute material to elementary school students (Part 2A of the Draft). Continuing to allow direct access to the youngest children is imprudent and irresponsible.
- We should err on the side of caution when it comes to exposing children to printed materials of any sort in school. Community organizations and businesses should not be permitted to display their material at any time (Part 2B of the Draft); there is a time and place for politics and marketing, and it is not at school (and targeted at children). The nonjudgmental stance expressed in Part 2C of the Draft is simply not good enough. If we can not stand up for what education is, we should at least stand up for what it is not: that is, Montgomery County Public Schools should not abide by commercialism and radicalism in child education.

These comments aside, I commend you on taking the initiative to revise the flyer policy, and I hope to see it in effect soon.

Sincerely yours,



Patrick Egan, PhD

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MAY 17 2012
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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



P.O. Box 30688
Bethesda, MD 20824-0688
Administrative Offices:
T 240.644.1099 F 301.565.1601
Box Office:
T 240.644.1100 F 240.644.1101
www.roundhousetheatre.org

May 18, 2012

Dr. Joshua Starr
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Superintendent Starr:

We are writing to you regarding *Policy CNA, Informational Material and Announcements*, which was tentatively adopted on April 30, 2012 by the Board of Education. This policy concerns the display and distribution of printed informational materials and announcements in schools.

The proposal bans the distribution of materials by nonprofits to middle and high school students. As a well-respected nonprofit arts organization offering significant benefits to the community, we are alarmed by the detrimental impact this would have on our ability to reach out to a wide cross-section of students who could benefit so much from our summer arts programs.

Round House Theatre distributes 46,047 brochures in MCPS schools, including Loiederman Middle School, Silver Spring International Middle School, Takoma Park Middle School, Montgomery Blair High School, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, and Albert Einstein High School among others. We offer engaging, creative, affordable summer programming for Montgomery County students, and award thousands of dollars' worth of need-based scholarships to families each summer. We depend upon flyer distribution in the school to reach these families and let them know about our programs.

Enclosed please find our brochures from 2011 and 2012. Please do not keep these out of the kids' backpacks! We would be happy to submit to a vetting process, but **strongly oppose a total ban on distribution of materials.**

Thank you for your work on behalf of Maryland's students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Danisha Crosby
Associate Producer,
Director of Education & Outreach Programs

Copy to: Board of Education at boe@mcpsmd.org

15

Round House Theatre Bethesda
4545 East-West Highway • Bethesda, MD 20814
Round House Theatre Silver Spring
8641 Colesville Road • Silver Spring, MD 20910
Round House Theatre Education Center
925 Wayne Avenue • Silver Spring, MD 20910

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: King, Suzann M - BOE Office
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 5:01 PM
To: Williams, Stephanie P; Potosky, Harriet E.
Cc: Sequeira, Martha
Subject: FW: AALEAD comments on Informational Material Policy
Attachments: AALEAD Comment on Info Material Policy.pdf

Suzann M. King
Staff Assistant, Policy and Communications
Office of the Board of Education
Phone: 301-279-3617
Fax: 301-279-3860
Email: Suzann_M_King@mcpsmd.org

From: Surjeet Ahluwalia [mailto:sahluwalia@aalead.org]
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 4:58 PM
To: BOE Mail; Ikheloa, Roland; Docca, Judy; King, Suzann M - BOE Office; O'Neill, Patricia; Brandman, Shirley; Steinberg, Laura; Barclay, Christopher; Berthiaume, Laura; Kauffman, Phil; Yorro, Kathy; Durso, Michael A.; Xie, Alan
Subject: AALEAD comments on Informational Material Policy

Dear Montgomery County Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools,

Asian American LEAD (AALEAD), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1998, is the leading community organization that provides youth development programs to Asian American youth in Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. Our highly-dedicated staff deliver specialized after-school programs, one-on-one mentoring, academic support services, life-skill development, and assistance to parents with school-related issues affecting their children. AALEAD's goal is to provide a nurturing environment and culturally-sensitive guidance so that each child and youth it serves will be a contributing member of his or her community. For more information, please visit www.aalead.org.

AALEAD works within 5 middle schools and 2 high schools in the County. **We request that after-school providers operating in a school be added to the list of organizations allowed to distribute materials and announcements.** We would like to continue to distribute information for recruitment purposes and to provide information to the general school community.

Sincerely,

Surjeet Ahluwalia

Surjeet Ahluwalia
Director of Operations, AALEAD
2100 New Hampshire Ave. NW Washington DC 20009
202.884.0322 x109
sahluwalia@aalead.org
CFC# 88412 / United Way# 9613

16



Founded 1968

MCCA Office:
mcca@mccaedu.org
301-984-7617

Center Locations:
Arcola
arcola@mccaedu.org
301-649-3517

Ashburton/Myngate
ashwyn@mccaedu.org
301-365-8518

Bel Pre
belpre@mccaedu.org
301-598-4610

Bethesda Lynbrook
lynbrook@mccaedu.org
301-656-4811

Beverly Farms
beverlyfarms@mccaedu.org
301-299-6412

Beverly Farms ES
kidsclub@mccaedu.org
301-299-7012

Brooke Grove
brookegrove@mccaedu.org
301-570-4515

Garrett Park
garrettpark@mccaedu.org
301-946-6112

Georgian Forest
gforest@mccaedu.org
301-871-1212

Greenwood
greenwood@mccaedu.org
301-774-2510

Kensington/Forest Glen
kfg@mccaedu.org
301-593-9612

Park Street
parkstreet@mccaedu.org
301-424-8912

River Road
riverroad@mccaedu.org
301-229-0414

Woodacres
woodacres@mccaedu.org
301-320-4817

Training Institute
training@mccaedu.org
301-984-7617

May 30, 2012

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the updated Policy CNA,
Informational Materials and Announcements.

Montgomery Child Care Association is the county's oldest non-profit child care provider, serving approximately 1000 infant through school age children and their families at 14 programs throughout the county. We are grateful that the updated informational materials policy continues to permit non-profit programs like ours to distribute flyers and other print materials to the families of elementary school students through their take-home folders and backpacks.

We believe this flyers-in-backpacks service is extremely valuable to elementary school families, especially those who are new to MCPS or new to the neighborhood. Families' child care needs differ widely and change frequently as jobs change, a new child joins the family, a child is diagnosed with special needs, or some other life event occurs. Information in their children's school backpacks can help families more easily discover the child care programs in their community that will best fit their needs.

The flyers-in-backpacks service is also a valuable resource for MCCA child care programs. We are careful to use it sparingly so it doesn't become burdensome for our local schools. Each MCCA child care program distributes informational flyers only through its neighborhood schools, and usually does so only 2 or 3 times a year. This information sharing helps our programs thrive and enables us to provide high quality child care that supports children's early learning and success in school.

We work hard to be good partners with our schools in the education of our young children, and we hope that the new policy, as it evolves, will continue to permit us to share information about our child care programs with elementary school families.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your commitment to the children and families of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,
Michelle Martineau Green ^{VB}

Michelle Martineau Green
Executive Director

3204 Tower Oaks Blvd., Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852
www.mccaedu.org

17

RECEIVED
MAY 30 2012
BOARD OFFICE

Potosky, Harriet E.

From: Rose, Glenda
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Potosky, Harriet E.
Subject: FW: Board Policy CNA on Informational Material and Announcements

From: Ana Sol Gutierrez [mailto:asolgut@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 10:18 AM
To: BOE Mail; Ikheloa, Roland; Docca, Judy; King, Suzann M - BOE Office; O'Neill, Patricia; Brandman, Shirley; Steinberg, Laura; Barclay, Christopher; Berthiaume, Laura; Kauffman, Phil; Yorro, Kathy; Durso, Michael A.; Xie, Alan
Subject: Board Policy CNA on Informational Material and Announcements

May 29, 2012

TO: BOE and Superintendent of MCPS
FROM: Ana Sol Gutiérrez, MD State Delegate, D-18
SUBJECT: Comments on BOE Policy CNA
May 30, 2012

I strongly recommend that this important communications policy not be silent on meeting the linguistic needs of our student and parent communities, especially in elementary schools.

I suggest that the BOE add the following requirement for approval of materials and announcements to be distributed in MCPS:

All materials and announcements that are sent home to non-English speaking households shall be translated into Spanish and/or whatever other languages are predominant in that school community. Alternatively, translations of materials, announcements, and similar information must be prepared and made easily and readily available to non-English speaking parents upon request.

Rationale: Since parental involvement in the education of their child is critical to the successful achievement of all students, MCPS should consider effective communication with parents a top priority; it can no longer ignore the urgent need to reach non-English speaking households in the county in an effective and consistent manner.

If you need more information, feel free to contact me via email at asolgut@gmail.com or by phone at 301-237-4211.

ASG



officers

Jacqueline Manger
West Creek Capital
Chair & Chair of Governance

Erica A. Leatham, Esq.
Ballard Spahr LLP
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Millennium Arts Salon

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Mayorga Coffee Roasters

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adjunct to the
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Kenneth A. Lechter, Esq.
Legal Counsel

June 5, 2012

Dr. Joshua Starr
Superintendent of Schools
Montgomery County Public Schools
Carver Educational Services Center
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Starr:

I am writing today to voice a concern about the proposed revision to Board Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements* to restrict flyer distribution from nonprofits to middle and high school students. The arts and cultural community of Montgomery County provide after school, summer and spring break activities and programs that not only offer a safe haven for students when parents are at work, but also help students of all abilities grow and develop into caring, successful young adults. Many of these cultural non-profits—Round House Theater, Imagination Stage, and Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra, for example—communicate program opportunities to students via the back pack distribution process.

Restricting flyer distribution will impede students' and parents' ability to learn about these impactful opportunities. That puts kids at risk. As research has shown, youth left to their own devices during unsupervised hours are more likely to get into trouble with drugs, truancy, teen pregnancy and gang activity. Arts programs not only enhance academic skills, but they keep kids engaged in school and community, and out of trouble.

We know this program information is valuable to parents because we hear from parents who receive our flyer: *The Guide to Children's Art Activities*. AHCMC has published and distributed *The Guide* to all MCPS elementary students since 2004. *The Guide* features over 25 arts education presenters offering after-school, summer and weekend programs and classes. See a digital copy of *The Guide* at creativemoco.com/guide-childrens-arts-activities.

As MCPS weighs all concerns, I hope you will reconsider restricting flyer distribution from qualified nonprofits to middle and high school students and allow the cultural community to continue providing services to Montgomery County's youth.

Sincerely,


Suzan Jenkins
CEO

801 ellsworth drive
silver spring, md 20910-4438
301.565.3805
fax: 301.565.3809
www.creativemoco.com

April 30, 2012

Tentative Action on Policy CNA, informational Material and Announcements

There are many organizations making a positive impact on the youth of Montgomery County. I hope the Board of Education sees the merit in allowing parents and students every opportunity to become aware of and involved with activities that promote personal and professional development as well as civic responsibility.

As a parent and as an active community volunteer, I recognize the benefit of the broad diversity represented within the Montgomery County Public Schools student body. But that diversity also requires us to use many different media to establish communication. Providing fliers to accompany the students home in their backpacks has been very useful in reaching families that are not well connected to our community.

As a past-president of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Foundation and as a Boy Scout Leader, I have met boys and girls whose families are not connected with the community because of language barriers, because they are new to the area, because they lack access to a computer or similar media at home, or who do not enjoy stable housing.

I believe that the neediest children in the area will be the ones most hurt by the elimination of backpack fliers. The written word, taken home by the youth may be the only information about after-school opportunities that reaches that family from outside their circle of friends.

The Boy Scouts, using four major programs, served over 8000 Montgomery County boys and girls from 1st grade to age 21 in 2011. We try to have a presence in every media when getting the word out. When we have been able to get information into the backpacks, the diversity of youth served, expands.

As one of the many organizations making a positive impact on the youth of Montgomery County, we hope the Board of Education sees the merit in allowing parents and students every opportunity to become aware of and involved with activities that promote personal and professional development as well as civic responsibility.

John C. Hanson
12513 Fostoria Way
Gaithersburg MD 20878

301-807-2844
hansonest@comcast.net

I volunteer with the Boy Scouts. My children have attended schools in the Quince Orchard Cluster, my family and I have made our farm available to the second grade classes at Travilah Elementary School, as an active member of the Rotary Club of Bethesda-Chevy Chase and a past president of the BCC Rotary Foundation, we have supported needy youth at Bethesda Elementary School and other elementary schools for years, including clothing to wear and backpack food to make it through the weekend. I have seen how much of a difference it makes for a child who doesn't have some of the advantages of our average student to have access to some of these outside activities.

May 21, 2012

Tentative Action on Policy CNA, informational Material and Announcements

Tonight, I am speaking as Area Vice President of Mission Impact of the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. As the proud father of two Montgomery County Public School graduates, I have seen first hand the benefit of having youth become engaged with the community. In my years as a Scout leader, I have seen the benefit of youth engaging with the community. My observation is that an engaged youth tends to have better attendance and performs better in school. The effect of seeing older Scouts taking their school work seriously and moving through the program in a determined manner motivated my son to perform well. Youth that connect with the community, tend to cause the community to connect with them and their schools, clubs, and interests. This is a benefit to all concerned.

We reach youth and their families using many methods, but the backpack flyers tends to reach a group we might otherwise miss; those youth without computers, whose families may not be connected or involved in the community. This last year, 2011, our Scouts contributed over 33,000 hours of community service in projects which included quite a number of County Schools. Manna reported that the Scouts collected over 73,000 pounds of food for the County last Fall. Please help keep this connection available to the underserved.

I also have volunteered in the past with the Metropolitan YMCA. They too are writing to you to preserve the backpack mail system.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to find ways to reach the under served Youth in Montgomery County. Police Chief Manger and other County leaders have spoken recently about the importance of providing worthy activity to youth and developing that connection to the community.

As one of the many organizations making a positive impact on the youth of Montgomery County, we hope the Board of Education sees the merit in allowing parents and students every opportunity to become aware of and involved with activities that promote personal and professional development as well as civic responsibility.

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Testimony to the Montgomery County Board of Education
April 30, 2012
By Laurie Halverson, parent

Hello, my name is Laurie Halverson and I am a proud parent of two boys who are Boy Scouts in troop 1434 and my husband, Mike is an Assistant Scout Master. One of the strengths of this troop is they are each very different, in culture, age, color, interests and first languages, yet they all have a great time learning and sharing experiences together which are preparing them for a successful future.

The state's environmental education requirement and the outdoor education program for 6th graders teach what we believe our boys learn each month during their camp-outs. They also learn about themselves and time management in getting their homework done in order to go camping on weekends.

Each fall, the troop recruits new scouts using MCPS's flyer distribution at the three local middle schools – Tilden, Cabin John and Hoover. It is very difficult to reach children and their parents in a direct way. The flyer distribution system is a useful community service and it's the best and only means we are aware of to reach all families in an inclusive way, including parents we may not otherwise have access to. To eliminate flyer distribution through the schools would limit access and cut the multicultural reach we currently have. We can not get the same reach through swim clubs or word of mouth.

Having flyers on display in the school is not an equivalent alternative solution. Most middle school parents don't come inside the school building very often and few could tell you where the school's flyers are kept.

As one of the many organizations making a positive impact on the youth of Montgomery County, we hope the Board of Education sees the merit in allowing parents and students every opportunity to become aware of and involved with activities that promote personal growth, boy leadership, outdoor life as well as civic responsibility.



**Board of Education
Montgomery County MD
Public Comment Period
April 30, 2012**

**Statement on Policy CNA, Informational Material
Geoffrey E. Wolfe**

My name is Geoffrey Wolfe. I am a life-long resident of Montgomery County, parent of two children who attended our public schools, and a volunteer in the Boy Scouts of America.

I am speaking as an individual on the proposed "flyer distribution" policy to be applied in primary and secondary schools. As a father who has seen the Scout program mean so much for my own son and so many others, I urge that Scouts and other non-profit non-governmental organizations continue to have access to youth and their families through the "backpack mail."

This access is important for the following reasons:

- Our Scout fliers inform youth and their parents about the distinctive programs available to different age groups, from Cub Scouts in the first through fifth grades, to Boy Scouts in the sixth through twelfth grades and those up to age 21.
- These fliers provide information that both complements MCPS goals and augments that education with unique programs on everything from outdoor skills and the environment, to leadership.
- Access via fliers is vital to recruitment, especially for young Cub Scouts. We understand that recruitment rates have dropped by fifty percent in some nearby jurisdictions where flier access was stopped.
- Fliers are the only way to reach some youth and families, especially those who may not have home computers.
- Fliers provide a particularly important means to reach some underserved youth in Montgomery County. Boy Scouts are trying to reach more of those in African-American, Asian and Hispanic communities.

I look forward to working with you in an open public process. As Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts celebrate their 100th anniversary in the United States, I hope that it is possible to find a way to assure equal access to information about the Scouting program through distribution of paper fliers to all children in Montgomery County.

Thank you.

Contact Information:
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geoffreywolfe@comcast.net

(BOE – April 30, 2012)

Testimony of Tom Hearn
MCPS Board of Education Meeting
April 30, 2012

Thank you, Superintendent Starr and Board members. I am Tom Hearn and a parent of a Whitman sophomore football player. I speak in opposition to the proposed changes to policy CNA. The current channel for distributing information to MCPS families is an important way to pass on needed information about concussions in high school football and other sports.

According to Fairfax County Public Schools, football concussions account for over half of all concussion in FCPS's sports programs. Girls may get more soccer concussions than boys, but both combined are far less than those sustained in football. For the 2011 season, FCPS's 24 high schools reported an average of 22 concussions per school.

Back in January, Whitman High School Principal Alan Goodwin noticed from attendance data that 18 Whitman students were recovering from concussions. He was troubled by this data and on April 19, hosted a panel of sports concussion experts. Among the experts were Dr. Gerry Gioia, who heads the Children's Hospital Sports Concussion Clinic. The Clinic, with offices on Shady Grove Road in Rockville, serves as the MASH unit for many MCPS football players and other athlete who sustain concussions.

During the discussion, Dr. Gioia noted that MCPS stood out among surrounding school districts for not having certified athletic trainers on staff at each high school. In nearby Fairfax County, Virginia, each high school has had two full time athletic trainers on staff for the last 30 years. Nearby Howard County also has trainers at each school.

Dr. Gioia called on MCPS to staff each high school with a full time athletic trainer, saying it was important to running a safe sports program. Dr. Dave Milzman, a Whitman parent and Director of Baseline Testing for Georgetown University Hospital Center/MedStar, echoed this call to action. Back in January, Dr. Sanjay Gupta made a similar call in his CNN Report, Big Hits and Broken Dreams, about high school football concussions.

If you haven't seen Dr. Gupta's report, I strongly recommend it to each of you and will provide you with a DVD copy. Most compelling is Dr. Gupta's interview with a North Carolina school superintendent anguished over the death of a high school football player who died from a second concussion sustained several days after a first.

Among the value that a full time trainer brings is a public health approach to recordkeeping. If you noticed earlier that I cited Fairfax County statistics about

concussions, it is because each trainer tracks each injury, and details about it, through recovery in a way that allows trends to be seen.

In MCPS, football concussion data is collected by the athletic director orally asking the 24 football coaches at an end of season meeting for a show of hands of how many concussions they had. Last year, the average was 2 per high school. Including both JV and varsity. The old adage from academic education, “you measure what you treasure” comes to mind. In FCPS, they counted 22 per school and can disaggregate the data based on time of recovery. As you recently tweeted, Josh, FCPS generates “data to ask questions, not give answers.”

In this context, Alan Goodwin has to be praised for listening through this data silence to the story coming from his attendance data that told him, imperfectly, that concussions were a problem.

Football concussions do not respect status or social position. Two years ago, the son of a sitting member of the board of education in nearby Prince William County hung himself two days after sustaining a concussion in high school football. He had no previous history of depression or mental illness; sadly, the cascade of biochemical changes that a concussion inflicts on a brain sometimes results in the student athlete taking his own life. In response, the Prince William County Board of Education fast-tracked a Board-level concussion policy and had Dr. Gioia speak at a public meeting of the Board.

Josh, with the many responsibilities associated with running MCPS’s K-12 academic education program, it would be understandable that you have not had time to focus on the fact that you are the senior safety officer for high school athletics. No one ever died from a bad academic education, but high school football and other student athletes die or get serious brain injuries each year from concussions.

In sports vernacular, you are the Blind Side left tackle for the 2,400 MCPS students who play high school football and the other high school athletes. It is understandable that for the last year, you have been playing the position the way Jerry Weast played it, but starting August, it’s all you.

Given the current budget constrains, you probably can’t act on Dr. Gioia’s call for trainers in time for August, when the football seasons starts. But what I want you to do by Friday, is reach out to Dr. Gioia and meet with him. As of last week, that hadn’t happened. Your use of Twitter is infectious—get Dr. Gioia to join so the both of you can tweet and retweet important information about concussions.

Second, get the Board to form a Concussion Advisory Committee and staff it with local experts like Drs. Gioia and Milzman—and parents. Baltimore County Public Schools has had an active advisory committee for the last year and it has resulted in clear policies and procedures that don’t currently exist in MCPS.

For the Board, by the end of the summer, adopt a board-level sports concussion policy like Prince William County did. MCPS's Athletics department, in conjunction with MCPS high school principals acting in their capacity as the MCPS Athletic Association, developed a concussion policy two years ago. The policy was overtaken by new requirements in the concussion policy developed by the State Athletic Association last summer. Parent input was never sought for either policy and this resulted in them containing serious flaws.

Thank you for listening to me. In conclusion, I oppose the proposed changes to policy CNA.

18 year old high school football player

John Doe

Former multi-sport athlete

Died at age 18

John Doe (the family has asked to keep his identity private) was a multi-sport athlete who suffered multiple concussions in high school football. Analysis of Mr. Doe's brain revealed the earliest evidence of CTE ever recorded.

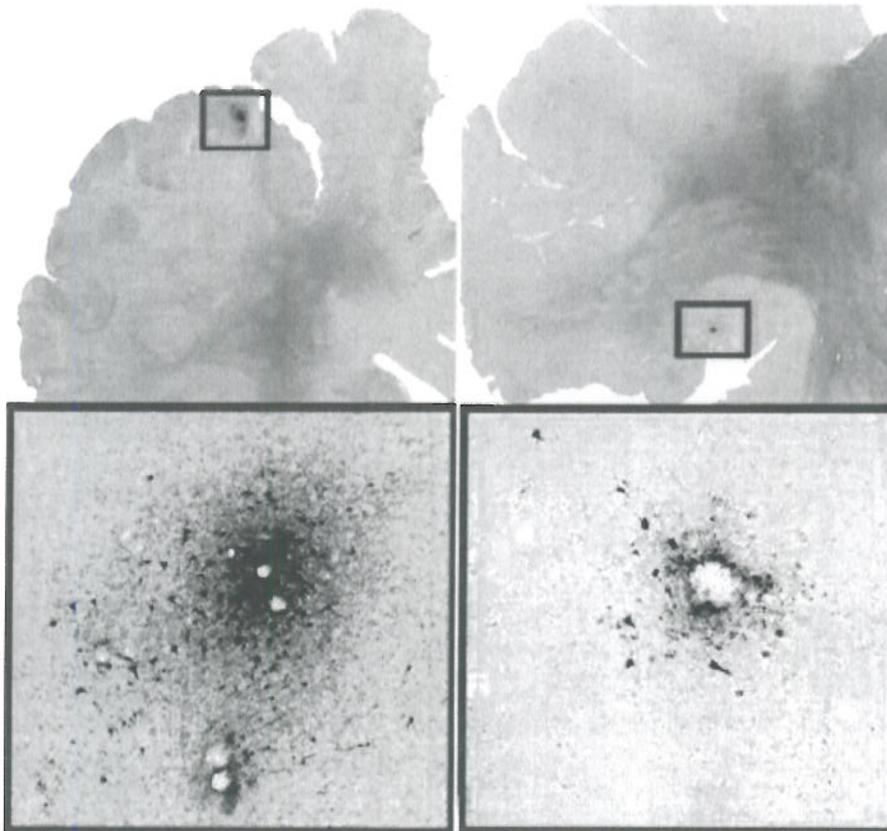


Figure 5: 18 year old brain tissue

Top left: Whole mount section of frontal cortex showing very focal deposition of tau protein around small blood vessels (red box)

Bottom left: High magnification shows dense tau immunoreactive NFTs around small blood vessels (holes) and extensive tau immunoreactive neurites in the neuropil immediately surrounding the area

Top right: Another whole mount section of frontal and insular cortex showing very focal deposition of tau protein around a small blood vessel in insulara cortex (red box)

Bottom right: High magnification shows dense tau immunoreactive NFTs around a small blood vessel (hole) and tau immunoreactive neurites in the neuropil immediately surrounding the area

Read more about youth football head trauma

[Boston.com](#) | Warning sign on youth football head trauma

[Press Release](#) | Boston University School of Medicine Announces New Findings Linking Football and Progressive Brain Damage

65 Year Old Control

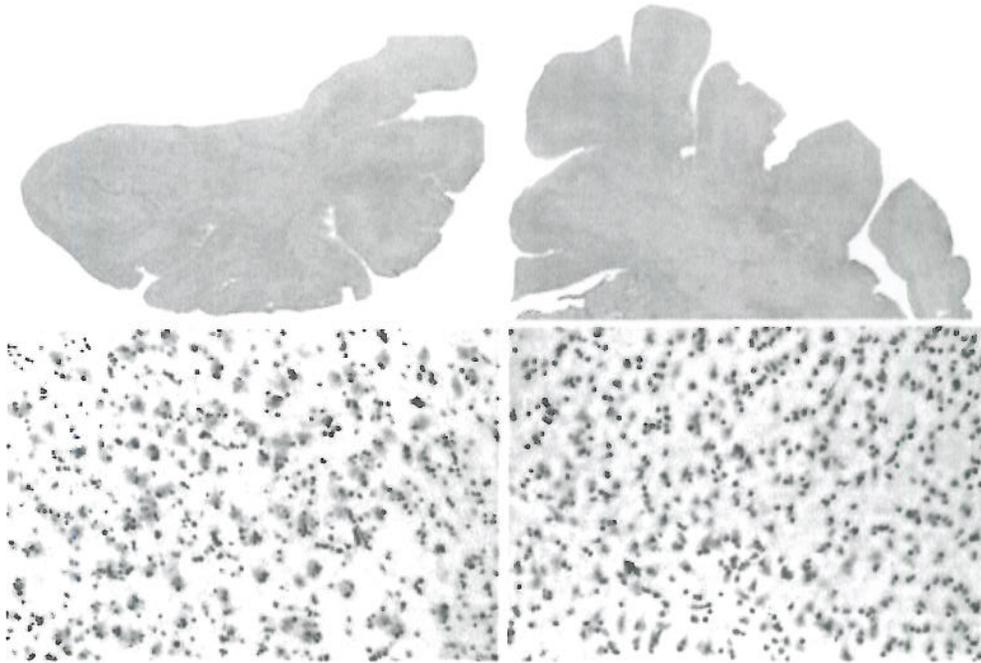


Figure 6: Control brain tissue

Top left: Whole mount section of medial temporal lobe immunostained for tau protein showing no immunoreactivity

Bottom left: High magnification photomicrograph of amygdala showing only extremely rare tau immunoreactivity

Top right: Whole mount section of frontal cortex immunostained for tau protein showing no immunoreactivity

Bottom right: High magnification photomicrograph of frontal cortex showing only no tau immunoreactivity

Mike Borich

Former college football player

Died at age 42

Mike Borich, a former college football wide receiver, died of a drug overdose in February 2009. Borich played for Snow College and Western Illinois University in the 1980s, and was later a football coach for the NFL's Chicago Bears and multiple division 1 college teams. Mr. Borich was the first advanced case of CTE discovered in a college football player who did not play professionally. Mr. Borich also represents the first case of CTE diagnosed in a wide receiver.

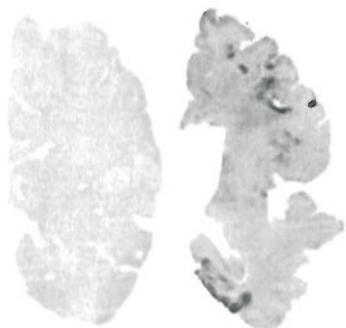


Figure 8: Normal control brain tissue and Mike Borich brain tissue

Left: Whole mount hemi-section of 61-year-old normal control brain immunostained for tau protein (brown) and counterstained with cresyl violet (purple) showing no tau deposition.

Right: Whole mount hemi-section of 42-year-old Mike Borich immunostained for tau protein (brown) and counterstained with cresyl violet (purple) showing extensive tau deposition throughout the frontal (1) and temporal (2) gray matter.

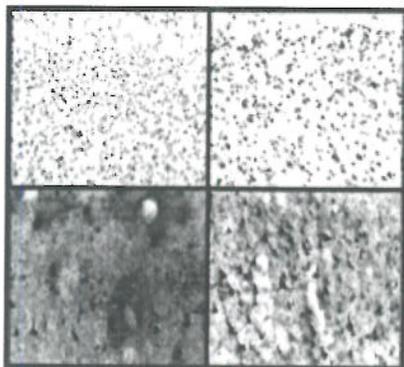


Figure 9: Normal control brain tissue and Mike Borich brain tissue

Photomicrographs of normal control brain (top panels) and the brain of Mike Borich (bottom panels), immunostained for tau protein (brown) and counterstained with cresyl violet (purple). Virtually no tau deposition is found in the normal control brain whereas numerous tau containing neurofibrillary tangles are found in individual nerve cells of the brain of Mike Borich.

Read more about Mike Borich

[New York Times](#) | Concussion Trauma Risk Seen in Amateur Athlete

[Press Release](#) | First Former College Football Player Diagnosed with CTE

John Grimsley

Former NFL player

Died at age 45

The first deceased athlete examined by the CSTE researchers was John Grimsley, former linebacker for the Houston Oilers and Miami Dolphins, who died in February 2008 at the age of 45 from an accidental gunshot wound. Examination of Mr. Grimsley's brain confirmed extensive CTE. In both sets of photographs, below, the brain tissue has been immunostained for tau protein, which appears as a dark brown color.

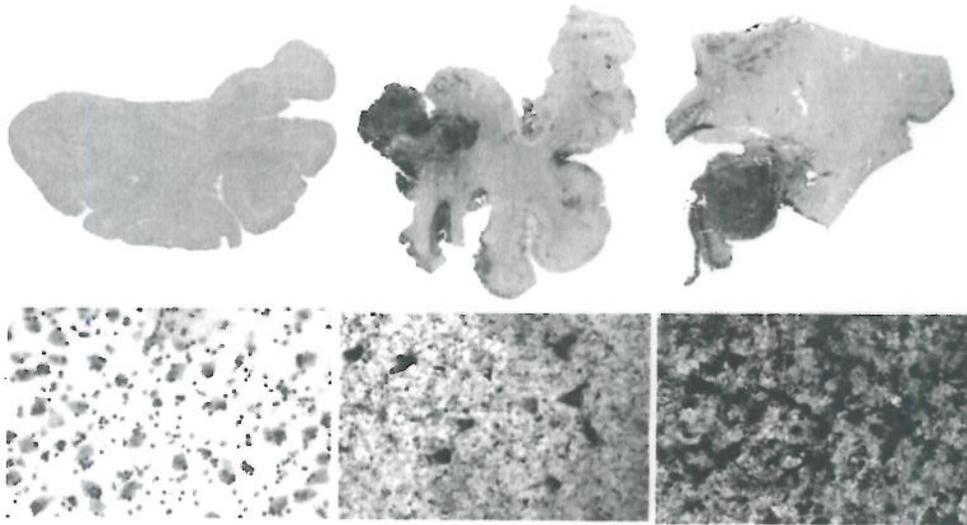


Figure 1: Tau immunostained sections of medial temporal lobe from 3 individuals

Top left: Whole brain section from a 65 year old control subject showing no tau protein deposition

Bottom left: Microscopic section from 65 year old control subject also shows no tau protein deposition

Top middle: Whole brain section from John Grimsley showing abundant tau protein deposition in the amygdala and adjacent temporal cortex

Bottom middle: Microscopic section showing numerous tau positive neurofibrillary tangles and neurites in the amygdala

Top right: Whole brain section from a 73 year old world champion boxer with severe dementia showing very severe tau protein deposition in the amygdala and thalamus

Bottom right: Microscopic section from a 73 year old world champion boxer with severe dementia showing extremely dense tau positive neurofibrillary tangles and neurites in the amygdala

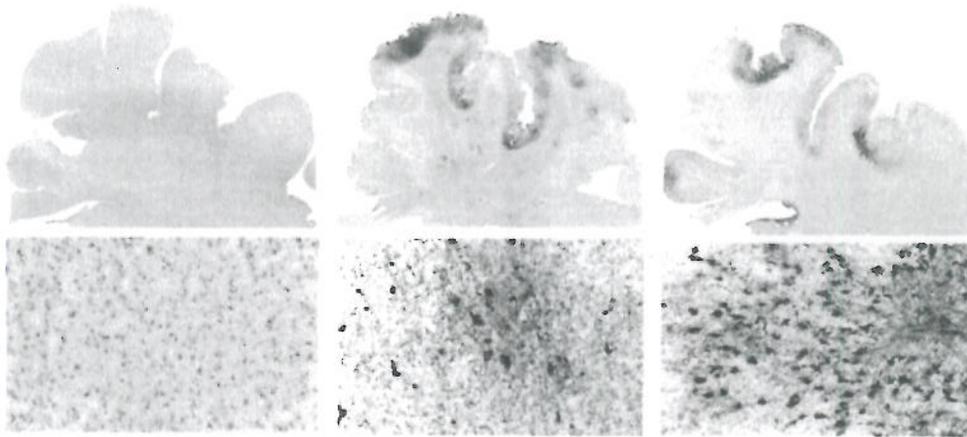


Figure 2: Tau immunostained sections of frontal cortex from 3 individuals

Top left: Whole brain section from a 65 year old control subject showing no tau protein deposition

Bottom left: Microscopic section from 65 year old control subject showing no tau protein deposition

Top middle: Whole brain section from John Grimsley showing patchy deposition of tau protein in the frontal cortex

Bottom middle: Microscopic section from John Grimsley showing numerous tau positive neurofibrillary tangles and neurites in the frontal cortex

Top right: Whole brain section from a 73 year old world champion boxer with severe dementia showing very severe, patchy tau protein deposition in the frontal cortex

Bottom right: Microscopic section from a 73 year old world champion boxer with severe dementia showing dense tau positive neurofibrillary tangles and neurites in the frontal cortex

Read more about John Grimsley

[New York Times](#) | 12 Athletes Leaving Brains To Researchers

Montgomery County Board of Education Meeting, April 30, 2012

Public Comment on Item 5.0:

Tentative Action on Policy CNA, *Informational Material and Announcements*

Comments by Stephanie Kreps, Co-founder Rainbow Youth Alliance of Montgomery County

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you.

I am Stephanie Kreps, co-founder of Rainbow Youth Alliance (RYA), a support group for LGBTQ teens that has been offering a safe space for sexual minority youth and their allies in Montgomery County for over 6 years.

I know that you will be discussing the Informational Material and Announcements Policy tonight. I hope to add my comments to your discussion.

It was my son, David, who first brought the PFOX fliers to my attention, when he was at Quince Orchard High School several years ago. As a gay student, he was very upset, knowing full well that what PFOX was saying was anti-gay and hurtful to him and other LGBTQ students. He came to his home room the day they were distributed and someone had left a flier on his desk, to see his reaction. It was a subtle, anonymous form of harassment.

Since then, after PFOX flier distributions, we have heard similar reactions by LGBTQ students who come to our RYA meetings. We have heard from straight allies, students who support their fellow LGBTQ friends and family members, who are outraged that such harmful misinformation is coming to them via their own schools.

In order to rebut the false PFOX assertions, I hope that you will listen to your own advisors and offer true and current information by adding it to MCPS's sex ed curriculum. The major medical, psychological, psychiatric and social work professional associations not only do not recommend "treatment" for gay and lesbian people, they have recognized that so-called 'reparative therapy' doesn't work and is actually harmful. This fact should be made clear to students in the module on sexual diversity. What you decide about the flier program, is, of course,

up to you, but full information that homosexuality is a part of the continuum of normal human sexual response should be taught to all students in our schools.

I have a vision of what students in MCPS schools will find in the future: every class room will be a community where all students are accepted and affirmed, and none are made to feel bad for any kind of 'different' aspect of their personalities. An atmosphere of this kind will only help students become better learners, and thus more successful individuals, doing our district proud.

If anyone on the board would like the most recent report from GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network), the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students, I have a hard copy with me that I can give you. It contains hard statistics on bullying of many classes of students and the effects of bullying on those students. They also have this and much more information on their website: www.glsen.org. They do a National School Climate Survey every two years and their latest report from 2011 is due soon.

Thank you.

Stephanie Kreps
12601 Carrington Hill Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301 977 8564

May 24, 2012

Dr. Joshua Starr
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

RECEIVED
JUN 11 2012
OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Superintendent Starr:

We are writing to you regarding the Board of Education's *Policy CNA, Information Material and Announcements*. This policy concerns the display in distribution of printed informational materials in schools, which recently banned distribution to middle and high school students.

As a result of Adventure Theatre and Musical Theater Center's merger this March, our audience has expanded to middle and high school in musical theater training, which includes Broadway professional classes for as low as \$25. An integral part of our marketing and outreach to these students is through the distribution of information and materials, and we are alarmed by the impact the ban would have on our ability to provide performing arts benefits to the community, as participation in performing arts programs have been linked to academic success and a more creative workforce.

Adventure Theatre has had great success with the elementary school-level distribution and understand the value to our organization. Enclosed are examples of brochures Adventure Theatre has placed in elementary schools, and programming of a similar nature geared to more advanced training would be distributed to middle and upper-school students.

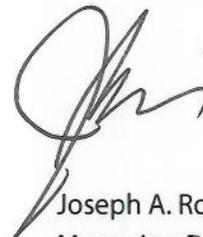
Any assistance you could provide in allowing Adventure Theatre MTC to distribute in the middle and upper schools would be of value. We would be happy to be subject to a vetting process, and will gladly submit any materials to that purpose, but strongly oppose a total ban of distribution of materials.

We thank you for your consideration and dedication to Maryland's academic success.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Bobbitt
Producing Artistic Director
Adventure Theatre MTC



Joseph A. Rossi
Managing Director
Adventure Theatre MTC