

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 5, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning Supports
and Extracurricular Activities (04-29-19-04)

Question

During Board member comments, Ms. Tadikonda requested information regarding the LGBTQ supports present for students in schools and any extracurricular activities for the students, and if the supports are going to be expanded.

Response

In serving all students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), there are multiple supports and structures in place to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) students, staff, and families. MCPS continues to work with principals, teachers, and staff through professional development and learning opportunities that focus on creating a welcoming and safe learning environment. MCPS has established [guidelines](#) to frame the supports for students and is developing new structures and organizational supports to address this important priority.

Various clubs and activities focus on and embrace the LGBTQ community and allies, such as the Gay-Straight Alliance. MCPS conforms with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association regulations regarding athletic participation opportunities for all students to ensure all students feel safe participating in athletics and have physical activity opportunities consistent with their asserted gender identity. In addition, schools identify explicit safe spaces for LGBTQ students and community, such as the school counseling office as a place to offer support and connect students with services.

Important curricular considerations are taken into account to ensure a constant cycle of curriculum review through the lens of diversity including the LGBTQ community. This lens also has been an important consideration with the recent adoption of new curriculum and instructional materials to ensure that there are diverse texts in which all students are able to see themselves and that

diverse perspectives and experiences are represented. This focus also is important in social studies, so that students are able to learn about important topics related to LGBTQ history. The goal is that all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum, the learning experiences, in the school community, and in all aspects of the school environment.

Moving forward, MCPS is benchmarking with other districts, research, and partner organizations to continue to develop strategies to ensure welcoming school climates and supports for the LGBTQ community. These important efforts were highlighted most recently at the first-ever Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual Forum on May 18, 2019, partnering with the community to build, support, and advocate for a stronger and more diverse LGBTQ school community. The work is in progress and continues to evolve through connecting and working with community stakeholders, students, and families to serve the LGBTQ community in MCPS.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MVN:NTH:jpm

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Dr. Grant

Mr. Murphy

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