

PARENT AND CHILD LOUDOUN

September Newsletter

September 3rd, 2019

AN INFORMED PARENT IS AN EMPOWERED PARENT!

Sexually obscene materials in school libraries and classrooms

Recently The Daily Caller featured [an article](#) on a popular LGBTQ book that is on library bookshelves throughout the world.

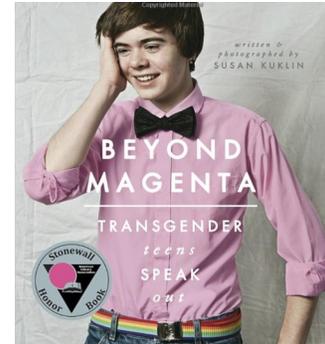
One reason this book is so problematic is the sexually explicit content that sends the message that it is normal for young children (as young as age six) to actively enjoy and engage in sexual activity. To read an excerpt of the book, click [HERE](#).

This book is (or will be soon) in [every 9th grade English classroom](#) and is currently in the following Loudoun County Public School libraries: Briar Woods HS, Dominion HS, Freedom HS, Heritage HS, John Champe HS, Loudoun County HS, Loudoun Valley HS, Potomac Falls HS,

Riverside HS, Rock Ridge HS, Sterling MS, Stonebridge HS, Tuscarora HS, and Woodgrove HS.

The following school board members have been notified by a PACL member: Jill Turgeon, Debbie Rose, Jeff Morse, and Eric Hornberger.

When the LCPS superintendent Dr. Eric Williams was asked about the book by the Sterling District candidate for School Board, Mike Neely, his only response was that parents need to submit a form to each individual school principal that requests the book be removed upon review. Of course, this does not help those parents who don't even know the books exist and are on shelves in the school libraries



Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out by Susan Kuklin

and classrooms.

In addition, Equality Loudoun has been actively seeking to add more copies of this book to LCPS libraries through their book drive. (continued...)

Educational Conference October 5th!

You do not want to miss this conference! It is likely the first of its kind here in Loudoun County! Seating is limited so please register TODAY! The price is only \$35 and includes lunch.

Learn about "transgenderism"

and how and why it is manifesting nationally AND locally, and particularly how it is affecting our children in the public schools and interscholastic athletics programs.

Click [HERE](#) to register today!

Mary Rice Hasson of the Ethics & Public Policy Center will be our keynote speaker followed by Jennifer Bryson of LetAllPlay.org

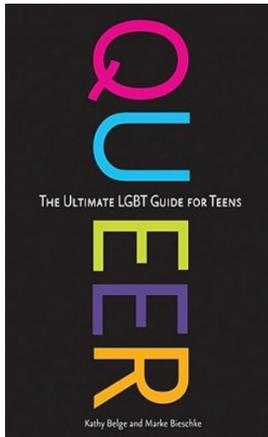
There will also be speakers from local parent activists groups including — (continued...)

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Special points of interest:

- Uncommon Knowledge: How Transgender Ideas Impact Our Kids - Saturday, Oct 5th
- Minors are being exposed to sexually explicit and obscene materials at school.
- It's not too late to opt-out of FLE!
- School Board candidates share their views with Parent and Child Loudoun!



Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens by Kathy Belge & Marke Bieschke

Sexually obscene materials in school libraries and classrooms continued...

Loudoun County Public Schools are also providing a sex guide to teenagers that violates Virginia's state law on Family Life Education standards by promoting promiscuity and sexual experimentation. You can read an excerpt [HERE](#).

This book is in libraries at four LCPS schools: Loudoun County HS,

Loudoun Valley HS, Potomac Falls HS, and Woodgrove HS.

The policy of LCPS to remove books is that parents must complain through a formal process that involves submitting a book report to the school principal who then decides whether or not the book should be removed. The form to complete and

submit can be found [HERE](#) (see page 9).

LCPS is putting LGBTQ-themed books in every Language Arts and English classroom from grades K through 12th as a part of the Diverse Classroom Libraries initiative. See complete book lists [HERE](#).

“Under pressure from transgender activists, progressive politicians, teacher unions... America's public schools are capitulating to ideologues and implementing the radical transgender agenda with full force.” - Mary Rice Hasson

Educational Conference October 5th! continued...

— Arlington Parent Coalition, ParentAndChild.org (Fairfax County), Parent and Child Loudoun, and EnCourage.

Register through EventBrite by clicking [HERE](#).

It is vital that parents, grandparents, and other concerned residents be informed on this issue that is rapidly impacting the mental and physical wellbeing of so many children.

Uncommon Knowledge:

How Transgender Ideas Impact Our Kids



Mary Rice Hasson, JD

Katherine O'Beirne Fellow at the Ethics & Public Policy Center



Jennifer Bryson, PhD

Founder of Let All Play

School Board Candidate Forum Sept. 4th!



The League of Women Voters of Loudoun County is hosting a forum for all Loudoun County School Board candidates.

Tickets are free, but they may be unavailable now due to high demand. If you want to attend but can't get a ticket, send us an email! One of our members has extras reserved and still available!

This is a great way to show support for your favorite candidate(s)!

Details for the event can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

The forum will be held at Congregation Sha'are Shalom in Leesburg starting at 7:00PM on Wednesday, Sept. 4th.

Hope to see you there!

If tickets are sold out, just send an email to:
parentandchildloudoun@gmail.com

School Board Candidate Surveys

Parent and Child Loudoun asked every Loudoun County School Board candidate to complete a questionnaire so that parents, residents, voters and other interested parties can better understand their policy views and beliefs.

PACL does not endorse nor oppose any candidate.

Several candidates did not respond to requests for completed questionnaires, one candidate refused to complete the survey (Beth Barts—Leesburg District), and one candidate asked for PACL’s non-profit information (which was provided) but gave no further response (Jeff Morse—Dulles District).

No Response:

Denise Corbo (At-Large), Atoosa Reaser (Algonkian), Eric Hornberger (Ashburn), Harris Mahedavi (Ashburn), Ian Serotkin (Blue Ridge), Leslee King (Broad Run), Zerell Johnson-Welch (Catocin), Jeff Morse (Dulles), Beth Barts (Leesburg), Brenda Sheridan (Sterling).



Question #1

On February 26, 2019, the Loudoun County School Board voted to amend its Equal Opportunity Policy (Policy 1040). The Policy now reads:

POLICY 1040: EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EQUITABLE, SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

The Loudoun County School Board is committed to providing for an equitable, safe and inclusive working environment.

The Loudoun County School Board affirms a commitment to this principle for all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, **sexual orientation, gender identity**, marital status, disability, age, or genetic information.

It is the intent of the School Board of Loudoun County that every policy, practice, and procedure shall reflect this commitment. Behavior that is not unlawful may nevertheless be unacceptable for the educational environment or the workplace. Demeaning or otherwise harmful actions are prohibited, particularly if directed at personal characteristics, including, but not limited to socioeconomic level, **sexual orientation, perceived sexual orientation or gender identity**.

Due to the controversial effects on privacy, curriculum, free speech rights, and Title IX protections where similar wording has been added to public policies in other jurisdictions, would you support removal of references to sexual orientation and gender identity in LCPS’s Policy 1040?

Responses to Question #1

Denise Corbo (At-Large): Did not respond.

Kenya Savage (At-Large): No.

Julie Sisson (At-Large): Yes—I don’t really have an issue with the “sexual orientation language;” it’s the “gender identity” that causes the problems with privacy. If it’s an all or nothing choice. I’d vote to remove.

Atoosa Reaser (Algonkian): Did not respond.

Melanie Turner (Algonkian): Yes.

Continued on page 4...

Responses to Question #1 continued...

Eric Hornberger (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Harris Mahedavi (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Ian Serotkin (Blue Ridge): Did not respond.

Ram Venkatachalam (Blue Ridge): Yes—I support policies that promote the equal treatment of all students in a non-discriminatory way, and that seek to keep all students safe. I would vote to eliminate the calling out of specific characteristics in policy pronouncements, however, as this mainly serves to be a platform for those advocating for or against social norms and legal positions that should not be decided by a local School Board.

Andrew Hoyler (Broad Run): No.

Leslee King (Broad Run): Did not respond.

Jenna Alexander (Catoclin): No—I think it's really important that our students/staff feel safe and supported with appropriate bullying policies in place. I didn't see Policy 1040 as being a trickle down to start changing policies on bathroom access or girls sports, but more addressing the concerns about bullying/feeling accepted. So, on that basis, I wouldn't support repealing Policy 1040, but, I do think that there needs to be very thoughtful conversation about safety for every student in the locker rooms—as an overall issue that needs to be addressed, not just related to Policy 1040.

John Beatty (Catoclin): Yes.

Zerell Johnson-Welch (Catoclin): Did not respond.

Jeff Morse (Dulles): Did not respond.

Beth Barts (Leesburg): Did not respond.

Joe Newcomer: Yes.

Brenda Sheridan (Sterling): Did not respond.

Mike Neely (Sterling): Yes.

Question #2

Currently, all LCPS Students are automatically enrolled in sexual education classes called Family Life Education (FLE). Would you support a policy to make FLE voluntary rather than requiring parents to opt their children out of the program?

Responses to Question #2

Denise Corbo (At-Large): Did not respond.

Kenya Savage (At-Large): No.

Julie Sisson (At-Large): No—I think there are some aspects of FLE that students should learn (at age appropriate levels, of course). (Frankly, some parents could stand to have it!) The FLE materials have always been provided to me (I ask), and I've opted my children out when I felt it necessary. It wasn't an onerous process, nor did anyone give me any push back about it.

Atoosa Reaser (Algonkian): Did not respond.

Melanie Turner (Algonkian): Yes.

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Responses to Question #2 continued...

Eric Hornberger (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Harris Mahedavi (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Ian Serotkin (Blue Ridge): Did not respond.

Ram Venkatachalam (Blue Ridge): Yes.

Andrew Hoyler (Broad Run): No.

Leslee King (Broad Run): Did not respond.

Jenna Alexander (Catoclin): No—I am concerned about the mechanics/implementation of this idea. I also think there is benefit in talking about what positive healthy relationships look like (along the lines of what happens in elementary levels to help prevent child abuse). It seems like it would be better to try to change the secondary curriculum than to have families opt-in. I'd like to hear your thoughts on opt in versus opt out versus revising the curriculum.

John Beatty (Catoclin): Yes.

Zerell Johnson-Welch (Catoclin): Did not respond.

Jeff Morse (Dulles): Did not respond.

Beth Barts (Leesburg): Did not respond.

Joe Newcomer: Yes.

Brenda Sheridan (Sterling): Did not respond.

Mike Neely (Sterling): Yes.

Question #3

Based on a recent National School Choice Poll by the American Federation of Children and by Beck Research, 67% of Americans support school choice. Do you support school choice: allowing Loudoun County parents to decide which public schools their children attend if such a policy is practical to implement?

Responses to Question #3

Denise Corbo (At-Large): Did not respond.

Kenya Savage (At-Large): Yes.

Julie Sisson (At-Large): Yes—I'm a big proponent of choice and support our smaller/charter schools. However, Virginia law currently does not allow for a true (voucher) school choice system (of which there are pros & cons).

Atoosa Reaser (Algonkian): Did not respond.

Melanie Turner (Algonkian): Yes.

Eric Hornberger (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Harris Mahedavi (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Ian Serotkin (Blue Ridge): Did not respond.

Continued on page 6...

Responses to Question #3 continued...

Ram Venkatachalam (Blue Ridge): Yes—I support school choice as long as it is administered in a manner that is equitable for all students and fiscally responsible for the system as a whole.

Andrew Hoyler (Broad Run): Yes.

Leslee King (Broad Run): Did not respond.

Jenna Alexander (Catoclin): Yes.

John Beatty (Catoclin): Yes.

Zerell Johnson-Welch (Catoclin): Did not respond.

Jeff Morse (Dulles): Did not respond.

Beth Barts (Leesburg): Did not respond.

Joe Newcomer: Yes—We already have this option in LCPS. I'm also for Home Schooling. But they must provide their own transportation as per policy today.

Brenda Sheridan (Sterling): Did not respond.

Mike Neely (Sterling): Yes.

Question #4

Currently, homeschool students in Loudoun County are not permitted to participate in the interscholastic athletics program regulated by the Virginia High School League (VHSL). Would you support homeschool student participation in VHSL interscholastic athletics?

Responses to Question #4

Denise Corbo (At-Large): Did not respond.

Kenya Savage (At-Large): No.

Julie Sisson (At-Large): Yes—100% yes.

Atoosa Reaser (Algonkian): Did not respond.

Melanie Turner (Algonkian): Yes.

Eric Hornberger (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Harris Mahedavi (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Ian Serotkin (Blue Ridge): Did not respond.

Ram Venkatachalam (Blue Ridge): Yes—I support this change only if it can be accommodated in a manner that is fair to all students and includes requirements, expectations and costs for participation that are comparable for homeschooled students as well as those enrolled in public schools.

Andrew Hoyler (Broad Run): Yes.

Leslee King (Broad Run): Did not respond.

Jenna Alexander (Catoclin): Yes.

John Beatty (Catoclin): Yes.

Zerell Johnson-Welch (Catoclin): Did not respond.

Continued on page 7...

Responses to Question #4 continued...

Jeff Morse (Dulles): Did not respond.

Beth Barts (Leesburg): Did not respond.

Joe Newcomer: Yes.

Brenda Sheridan (Sterling): Did not respond.

Mike Neely (Sterling): Yes

Question #5

Under current law, Virginia only recognizes a religious exemption for parents wishing to homeschool their children outside of school board authority. Would you support legislation that removes the religious requirement in order for parents to homeschool their own children outside of school board authority?

Responses to Question #5

Denise Corbo (At-Large): Did not respond.

Kenya Savage (At-Large): Yes.

Julie Sisson (At-Large): Unsure—I am a freedom-minded person and believe our children belong to us and not the state. However, I'd have to see the data/evidence from other states that have this policy to see how it bears out in terms of how well it's working.

Atoosa Reaser (Algonkian): Did not respond.

Melanie Turner (Algonkian): Yes.

Eric Hornberger (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Harris Mahedavi (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Ian Serotkin (Blue Ridge): Did not respond.

Ram Venkatachalam (Blue Ridge): No—Virginia law recognizes home instruction, tutoring provisions as the other two exemptions along with religious exemption. These school exemptions are those that I would vote to preserve.

Andrew Hoyler (Broad Run): Yes.

Leslee King (Broad Run): Did not respond.

Jenna Alexander (Catoclin): Yes.

John Beatty (Catoclin): Yes.

Zerell Johnson-Welch (Catoclin): Did not respond.

Jeff Morse (Dulles): Did not respond.

Beth Barts (Leesburg): Did not respond.

Joe Newcomer: Yes.

Brenda Sheridan (Sterling): Did not respond.

Mike Neely (Sterling): Yes

Continued on page 8...

Question #6

Recently, an activist from the Human Rights Campaign read a book titled *I Am Jazz* to two kindergarten classes in an Arlington public school without parental permission. This book teaches children it is possible to be born in the wrong body. The children were told that a girl brain can be born in a boy body. Would you oppose any and all efforts to teach children that they can be born in the wrong body?

Responses to Question #6

Denise Corbo (At-Large): Did not respond.

Kenya Savage (At-Large): No.

Julie Sisson (At-Large): Yes—While I do believe there are instances where gender development defects in utero can/do occur, I believe these are anomalies (not as frequent as we are made to believe). And I definitely do not believe it is appropriate subject matter for children.

Atoosa Reaser (Algonkian): Did not respond.

Melanie Turner (Algonkian): Yes.

Eric Hornberger (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Harris Mahedavi (Ashburn): Did not respond.

Ian Serotkin (Blue Ridge): Did not respond.

Ram Venkatachalam (Blue Ridge): Yes.

Andrew Hoyler (Broad Run): Yes.

Leslee King (Broad Run): Did not respond.

Jenna Alexander (Catoclin): Unsure—Do I support books that teach children they are born in the wrong body? I haven't seen this book, or, honestly any books like it. So, before I can really understand this I'd like to better understand exactly what is being said in the books and if it's science oriented or about bullying. I do think parental permission is important.

John Beatty (Catoclin): Yes.

Zerell Johnson-Welch (Catoclin): Did not respond.

Jeff Morse (Dulles): Did not respond.

Beth Barts (Leesburg): Did not respond.

Joe Newcomer: Yes.

Brenda Sheridan (Sterling): Did not respond.

Mike Neely (Sterling): Yes.

Additional Comments

Kenya Savage (At-Large): I have visited your website and likely have talked with most in your group at one time or another. Appreciate your thoughtful questions and look forward to continuing the dialogue to build a sustained and accountable District where all our children and teachers are safe and valued. As a trusted, solid, and familiar community leader, I look forward on continuing conversations with all Stakeholders to modernize Policies and institutionalize a culture with transparency to make our District better.

Melanie Turner (Algonkian): A person's sexuality has no place in the schools' education program. A person's personal sexual preferences should not be influenced by the public education programs or government. Further, sexuality is not a core academic subject but rather a preference or belief. I support all efforts to curb bullying but I do not believe we can do so by infringing on the rights of others.

Continued on page 9...

Additional Comments continued...

Andrew Hoyler (Broad Run): Regarding FLE - I do not believe making it voluntary would be the best way to go. FLE does have many benefits at certain grade levels—something PACL recognizes on their site by having some grade levels as “green”. That being said, I am in favor of greater transparency with the curriculum and not hiding the opt out procedure for parents.

Increasing the rights of our homeschooled kids is a top priority and I hope to have a positive working relationship with our state representatives.

I am the only candidate who has gone through LCPS FLE for numerous years. I know firsthand the areas that benefit students and the areas that do more harm than good.

PFLAG returning to Loudoun County...

After a hiatus (and likely emboldened by the recent policy change by the Loudoun County School Board), [PFLAG Loudoun is returning](#). This organization targets youth as young as 12 years of age.



PFLAG logo

As a feminist writer [describes](#) in a 2017 article for 4th Wave Now, the demand for organizations such as PFLAG waned considerably by the early 2010s. “Gay became normal, fine even. We went on hiatus for a while, then rebooted, in a different location and time. ... But the writing was on the wall: parents just didn’t need PFLAG like they used to, and it was pretty obvious they never would again.” But something started to change around 2013. The PFLAG chapter hot-line for which she volunteered began ringing off the hook: “This time, it was parents of ‘gender-non-conforming’ children, desperate for help and advice.”

She continues:

I don’t feel good about my blind acceptance of trans dogma, but in my defense, I was never encouraged to develop any sort of critical perspective. The word, from National on down, was that “it’s 95% the same” (in other words, if we were experienced in providing support to parents of gay and lesbian children, we were perfectly well equipped to do the same for parents of transgender children). I was also told that I shouldn’t worry that I was ignorant about the remaining “5%” (relating to the medical particulars of transition). As leaders, we were to affirm “innate gender identity” and transition, full stop. “Trans theory” was accepted scientific fact. No other opinions or viewpoints were entertained, much less explored, and there was no contemplation of the wisdom or safety of the medical procedures that transition entailed. Parents who questioned were crazy. End of discussion.

In addition to pushing transgenderism, one of the stated goals of PFLAG is to have comprehensive sex education implemented in schools. PFLAG makes the claim that “it is critical that schools avoid abstinence-only education, which excludes LGBTQ youth from important information and lessons,” and then encourages schools to use materials provided by GLSEN, Advocates for Youth, and Gender Spectrum, to name a few. Advocates for Youth [teaches](#) that:

Infants, children, teens, and adults are sexual beings. Just as it is important to enhance a child’s physical, emotional, and cognitive growth, so it is important to lay foundations for a child’s sexual growth. Adults have a responsibility to help young people understand and accept their evolving sexuality.

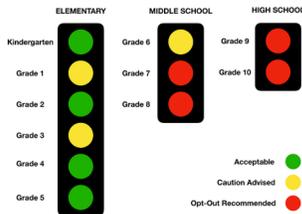
Big changes are coming to Loudoun County Public Schools’ policies and curriculum if PFLAG activists are given their way.



Advocates for Youth logo

An informed parent is an empowered parent!

Family Life Education Information



2018-2019 Parent and Child Loudoun assessment chart

The 2019-2020 FLE curriculum review period is now over, but parents can still review some materials in the school libraries upon request and can make private appointments to meet with FLE teachers individually.

The only information that LCPS provides online are the summaries of each grade level's FLE curriculum. You will not be able to access slides, worksheets, audio/visual materials, book lists, vocabulary terms, or any other materials used in these classes.

Should you choose to opt your child(ren) out of the FLE program, you are able to do so any time before the class is held. But be aware that some schools begin FLE as early as mid-September.

To opt out your child you will need to login to [ParentVUE](#) and follow these steps:

1. Click "Student Info."
2. Click "Edit Info."
3. Scroll down to "Opt-Outs"
4. Change the status to "Yes" if you want to opt your child out of FLE.
5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Save Changes."

Don't forget to register for the PACL conference!

Uncommon Knowledge:

How Transgender Ideas Impact Our Kids



Mary Rice Hasson, JD

Katherine O'Beirne Fellow at the Ethics & Public Policy Center

Jennifer Bryson, PhD

Founder of Let All Play



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