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August 3, 2007

Mr. Bruce Rodrigues
Superintendent of Leadership and Faith Development
Waterloo Region Catholic School District
35 Weber St. W., Unit A, PO Box 91116
Kitchener, ON, Canada N2G 4G2

C.c.: Roger Lawler, Trustees (Wayne Buchholtz, Marion Thomson Howell, Denise Blum, Manuel da Silva, Louise Ervin, Joseph Gowing, Fr. Robert Héту, Judy Nairn, Greg Reitzel), Most. Rev. Bishop Anthony Tonno, Auxiliary Bishop Gerard Bergie, Bishop Mathew Ustrzycki, concerned Catholic parents, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Luigi Ventura

Subject: Agenda Items for September 26 Family Life Meeting

Dear Mr. Rodrigues:

In a June 25th letter, you proposed excluding two pro-homosexual programs discovered in Waterloo Catholic Schools, from the upcoming discussion. Those programs were:

- 1) workshops for Principals and staff titled "*Understanding and Supporting Transgender Children and Youth*"
- 2) a "*Youth Connection Program*" that puts Catholic students in contact with a so-called AIDS awareness group which also has a prominent gay-activist component. The group opposes Catholic moral teaching on homosexual acts.

We must respectfully insist that these programs be included in the September 26th discussion. The reason you gave for excluding the newly discovered pro-gay programs was your belief that those issues are "separate and distinct" from the first complaint about the gay-propaganda book titled "Open Minds to Equality". We beg to differ. It is precisely the same issue. These programs, like "Open Minds", are inappropriate for a Catholic school system because they undermine Catholic moral teaching on homosexual behavior. They affirm the gay lifestyle and portray it as morally acceptable. Like 'Open Minds', they pose a danger to the Faith in that they may lead Catholic students and staff to reject the teaching of the Church.

You also mention that they "*need to be dealt with separately to ensure the original issue (Open Minds) is dealt with fairly, clearly and completely*". Your concern for fairness is much appreciated. However, we believe the opposite approach is required. The original book can only be assessed fairly if it's analyzed in light of the subsequent programs its ideology has helped to spawn in our Catholic schools. The Director of Education admitted the book has been in the school system since the 1990's. What is the result now in 2007? At least thirty books and videos which affirm the gay lifestyle have infiltrated our schools. Principals have attended indoctrination workshops which train



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them to believe that “transgender” is an official gender, just like being male or female. The school board now has a questionable partnership with a group that promotes the gay lifestyle as normal, natural and healthy. All these findings were reported to the Director of Education in our June 18, 2007 letter.

The book ‘Open Minds’ is only a piece of the bigger picture. The Family Life Committee (FLC) **must have the opportunity to discuss the big picture** on September 26. Lacking all the facts, Committee members might otherwise be lead to lightly dismiss the issue as *“just one book amongst thousands, so it’s not that big a deal”*.

Withholding all the facts from the FLC’s discussion would impair their ability to judge this issue with the appropriate level of sensitivity. These materials may already constitute a scandal¹ to the Catholic community. Therefore this question needs to be taken into consideration by the Committee. The avoidance of scandal by Catholic educators² must be an especially important consideration.

In fact, we regret to report that at least (2) more pro-homosexual programs have been discovered since our last correspondence. We would like to add those to the agenda:

1) **Brochure by PFLAG , a major promoter of same-sex ‘marriage’ legislation**

Minutes (see below) were sent to us from an April 26/07 Family Life Advisory meeting which approved a brochure for use by teachers.

Topic	Action
We can Help - PFLAG Brochure Presenter – Evie Hill	This brochure was approved for teachers, social workers, YCW’s Chaplains, and as a support for parents with GLBTQ students. This is to be put into the Sexual Health Protocol Binder in schools.

- The brochure was produced by PFLAG, a militant gay-activist organization which helped promote the legalization of same-sex “marriage” across Canada³. As you know, that’s an anti-Catholic position which has been repeatedly condemned by Pope John-Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. By cooperating with such a group, the Catholic school board grants legitimacy to their views.

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church, section 2284, “Scandal is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. The person who gives scandal becomes his neighbor’s tempter. He damages virtue and integrity; he may even draw his brother into spiritual death.”

² Ibid., section 2285, “Scandal takes on a particular gravity by reason of the authority of those who cause it or the weakness of those who are scandalized. It prompted our Lord to utter this curse: ‘Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.’ Scandal is grave when given by those who by nature or office are obliged to teach and educate others.”

³ see *Equal Marriage for Same-Sex Couples*, www.samesexmarriage.ca/advocacy/psa/pflag_press.htm



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- Offering this secular, homosexual group as a resource is tantamount to telling confused kids, " *You can't resist same-sex attractions, so don't even try, just embrace the lifestyle, and here's how to get started*".

2) Student Referrals to Homosexual Therapist - Dave Vervoort

- Dave Vervoort is an active homosexual, living openly in a homosexual relationship⁴
- FLC meeting Minutes from Feb 22/06 state that his brochure was approved to be " *placed in the Sexual Health Referral Protocol binder for use with administrators, chaplains...and guidance to support parents/students*".
- Is there any doubt that Mr. Vervoort, as a practicing homosexual, would encourage Catholic youth to "embrace" the gay lifestyle? Would he offer Catholic teaching on the illicitness of homosexual acts? Of course not. Homosexual sex would be affirmed as a good.
- Without question, referral of Catholic students to this individual may constitute a grave scandal. Encouraging the practice of homosexuality (what such a referral does in essence) may also cause spiritual, psychological and physical harm to Catholic youth.

3) Gr. 9 Religious Education Course⁵

We discovered a course profile for the *Gr. 9 Religious Education* class. Some of the course profile seems very good, such as the section dealing with abstinence. We cannot tell for sure without seeing the textbook and detailed teachers guide, but the language for 'Unit 3, Activity 8 & 9' suggests the potential for a lop-sided presentation of Catholic teaching on homosexuality.

In one part, the tone even seems to encourage teachers to create an environment where students can "choose to come out" in class as gay or lesbian⁶. We fear that this lesson may present certain Catechism sections out of context, thus misleading students into thinking that the Church has no serious moral objection to homosexual acts.

That lesson cites sections of the Catechism which have a valuable pastoral message on dignity for all persons. But the lesson doesn't cite any of the numerous Catechism and Bible verses that speak plainly about the disordered nature of homosexual acts.

Furthermore, there can be no serious consideration of how to help students with same-sex attraction without considering the medical and social risks present in the active 'gay' lifestyle. The psychological harm includes serious clinical depression, suicide attempts, and addictions including drugs and alcohol. As to physical harm to health, youth who engage in the 'gay' lifestyle are at risk for HIV, anal cancer, herpes simplex virus, human papilloma virus (HPV), gonorrhea, syphilis, genital warts, Chlamydia trachomatis, Hepatitis A, B & C, and a host of other

⁴ see his business website, www.rainbowtherapist.com/bio.html

⁵ Catholic District School Board Writing Partnership, "*Course Profile - Religious Education - Grade 9 Open*", January 2000

⁶ Catholic District School Board Writing Partnership, *Course Profile - Religious Education - Grade 9 Open*", p. 16, , January 2000



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infectious diseases, some of which are not presently curable⁷. Omission of these facts would be negligent.

We would appreciate the opportunity to study this course content before the September meeting.

As a 2nd reason for excluding the other inappropriate programs, you suggested that we did not have “specific concerns about the content” of the gay-activist group’s HIV presentation program, nor about the Transgender indoctrination course for educators. To address that concern, please allow me to offer:

1. For the transgender course, the fact it suggests that “transgender” is a legitimate gender (like being male or female), is a specific concern that we’ve already explained to the Director. The COURAGE apostolate which ministers to Catholics with same-sex attractions also agreed.
2. Would you kindly prepare the full content of those 2 programs so we can pick it up in the next few days at the WCDSB office? We will review and can certainly identify whether or not we find more “specific concerns”. Please also include the Gr. 9 Course Content at that time.
3. The example given by Auxiliary Bishop Gerard Bergie should be a guide for the WCDSB in this situation. When abortion-promoting, former President Bill Clinton was scheduled to speak at the Catholic Family Counselling Center, it was on the topic of domestic violence, not on abortion. Yet, due to his views on abortion, Bishop Bergie still opposed his visit stating “*it wasn’t appropriate to have Mr. Clinton as a speaker based on the fact that they were a Catholic counseling centre*”⁸. We believe the exact same logic applies to ACCKWA, PFLAG, Dave Vervoort and most likely, whatever secular group was contracted to put on the Transgender indoctrination course for Principles. We hope you will now agree that this qualifies as a “specific concern”?

Please reconsider our request to have a fuller discussion including these other inappropriate materials/programs. Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Jack Fonseca
Communications Director
Defend Traditional Marriage & Family™

⁷ Catholic Medical Association, “*Homosexuality and Hope*”, p.10. For online version: <http://www.cathmed.org/publications/homosexuality.htm>

⁸ “Catholic bishop opposes Clinton’s visit to centre”, The Record, 24 August 2006