

Delegation

Name: Nick Morabirto

Summary of main points for the issue/ concern:

My concerns, although respectful both in nature and delivery, we're not heard at my last delegation. I believe the anticipation of what I MAY have been about to say played a factor in my delegation being shut down, I was not about to say anything disrespectful or harmful to the gender diverse community. Being labelled transphobic was not only untrue but hurtful especially to my family and gender diverse friends who know me as a caring problem solver.

I would like to make my statement, which will include the following points:

- this bathroom inclusion policy has generated a level of concern in the community that can only be resolved through dialogue. Not allowing me to speak and the subsequent swell of support that I have received from all over the province and across Canada is an indication that by shutting down dialogue, we create frustration and anger which in turn does in fact create a dangerous environment for all involved, including the gender diverse students that we are attempting to protect.
- understanding that the Ontario human rights code is the basis for this bathroom inclusion policy, I believe there are opportunities to explore where the bathroom inclusion policy can be satisfactory to the community at large and also be in line with the OHRC
- much of my previous unread statement from March 7, I will not bother trying to read. The point I do want to make is that if our desired outcome is to make the community an inclusive and safe space for gender diverse students as well as all students, the current version of the bathroom inclusion policy is not doing that.

Recommendation(s) for resolution of issue:

I have some ideas that I wanted to put forth to the board for consideration so that the bathroom inclusion policy eliminates concerns across the entire population and is still in line with the Ontario human rights code. I have done a fair amount of research and I feel that by working together with the community, the board can be successful in achieving its final

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objective of a safe, friendly and inclusive environment that the community can be proud of.

Additional Message for your consideration:

My closest lifelong friends can attest to my respect and empathy for the gender diverse community, my intentions are to help this situation, a situation that I feel is going to get worse with regards to community frustration and anger. I can help with the dialogue, and although there are individuals in the population that are against gender diversity inclusion policies that probably think I am speaking for them, and although they are individuals in the population that probably think I am transphobic or bigoted, I am neither. Neither of those groups of individuals know who I am and what my intentions are.

I know the intentions of the school board are good, as are mine, I just wish to speak my mind in a respectful fashion and put forth some ideas that I believe may be worthy of consideration to avoid and otherwise inevitable clash of ideologies within the community that the school board will find itself in the middle of.

Respectfully,
Nick Morabito