

The Honorable Justin Wilk,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Prince William County School Board on this past Wednesday/Thursday. I only regret that the Board meeting not only started late, but that the bulk of the speakers were pushed to the late evening/early morning such that the public and press did not get the benefit of several substantive presentations. Further, it is very likely that you missed important feedback from the community on “gender identity, sexual orientation” as many people left rather than wait to speak given the late hour.

You have received plenty of legal and common sense rationale to not proceed with the Chairman’s vision on “gender identity and sexual orientation.” It is certainly reckless given the current legal and political climate. As I stated early Thursday morning the Chairman is also on the wrong side of science in what he is proposing.

Hopefully you also took note that several of the late presentations referenced the special report “[Sexuality and Gender; Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences](#)” (link provided and report attached). I think that this is of particular import in the discussion of how our community and by extension the school system treats gay and trans gender individuals. If you do nothing else – I ask that you at least read the “Executive Summary” which should provide important insight to this issue.

One of the throw-away accusations is that those of us opposed to what the Chairman is contemplating are doing so out of hate. Nothing could be further from the truth and I could not say it better than the principle author of this report who states in the Preface:

“I dedicate my work on this report, first, to the LGBT community, which bears a disproportionate rate of mental health problems compared the population as a whole. We must find ways to relieve their suffering.”

This is essential to understanding the resistance that you are facing. Many will try to reduce or stigmatize opposition to this issue through bumper sticker phrases about bathrooms and hate. However, the Chairman is dragging us all into a situation which is at best foolish and at worst dangerous and deadly to the very population you express interest in helping. Again, I implore you to at least read the Executive Summary to understand this issue and the dangers you are subjecting children to who are under your care. However, you owe it to all of us to read the entire report.

Don’t get lost in the emotional argument. Again there are principled legal, medical, and now scientific rationale for just leaving the policy as written.

As my representative on the School Board, my wife and I expect you to do the right thing and vote "No" to the change proposed by the Chairman.

Kindest Regards,
William "Bill" Card
Dumfries, Virginia