

Galloway Township Public School Board
Superintendent Annette C. Giaquinto, Ed.D.
101 South Reeds Road
Galloway, NJ 08205

19 September 2022

Galloway School Board and Superintendent Giaquinto:

The Galloway School Board is poised today to approve a new curriculum based on the state's new NJDOE guidelines. Part of the new curriculum adopts elements of Gender Theory - one of the most contentious political controversies in recent memory. Like most residents in New Jersey, I oppose those sections of the teaching program that adopts Gender Theory instruction.

What you are considering teaches and promotes Gender Theory as a fact and gives a surprisingly large amount of attention to it in the curriculum. This "theory" – and it is a theory – is wholly untested, forcing schools to conduct an involuntary, school-year-long social experiment on our precious children. In doing so, it instructs and encourages young children to have an emotion-based, subjective notion of identity and does so precisely when children are most susceptible to gender dysphoria. The idea that identity is subjectively defined is utterly preposterous.

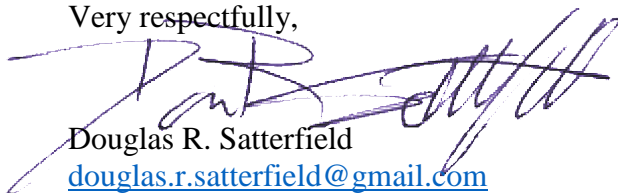
The damage teaching Gender Theory will cause is incalculable and will be catastrophic to those most vulnerable and confused. Any professional scientist conducting such an experiment on children would be rightly accused of gross unethical conduct. You are poised today to approve it.

Gender Theory teaches and applauds weakness, resentment, and discrimination and corrupts our children's understanding of life. The best way to help our children to have a meaningful life is to teach them to be strong and resilient to adversity. Teach them how to think, write properly, speak plainly, and read well. That predicts future success and fulfillment in life, not taking time away from classical education to indoctrinate them with a politically motivated, counterproductive, ill-conceived, invasive, inappropriate, and an otherwise unjustifiable and unproven theory.

The epitome of the noblest of goals in life is helping children become healthy, responsible, good adults who can live full, satisfying lives that are good for them and those around them. To adopt Gender Theory and tell small children lies about their gender is unacceptable. And children know deep down they are being lied to, and when teachers do so, young kids learn that the most "trusted adults" in their lives will lie to them. Remember that the most important people in children's lives are their parents. The schools should partner with parents on this topic, not by preempting parental rights and obligations or dismissing them by saying they can simply "opt out."

As Galloway Township Public School officials, you face a choice. I ask that you categorically reject all Gender Theory instruction in the school's curriculum and do so unequivocally. Make the ethical decision. You are trusted members of our community. Do the right thing.

Very respectfully,



Douglas R. Satterfield
douglas.r.satterfield@gmail.com
Galloway, New Jersey

Encl: My criticism of NJDOE Gender Theory guidelines.

Doug Satterfield's Criticism of NJDOE Gender Theory Guidelines

Gender Theory is the study of what is understood as masculine and feminine and queer behavior in any given context, community, society, or field of study. Proponents of Gender Theory believe that gender is socially constructed. The term sex refers to categories of the biologically observable human body, female and male or intersex (i.e., nature). In contrast, the term gender refers to the categories of social expectations, roles, and behaviors, feminine and masculine (i.e., what is nurtured). Gender Theory is highly controversial, unsupported in traditional studies of sexual behavior, and is relatively new. There are no peer-reviewed, control-group studies showing this theory's effects. Gender Theory adopts the position that one's gender is up to the individual, that one's gender can frequently change (gender fluidity), that one's gender can be other than male and female (80+ [currently identified](#)), and that any disruption of self-belief of one's gender is harmful and violence against that person.

What is the real problem with the NJDOE guidelines requiring Gender Theory teaching?

1. It unlinks gender from biology. It instructs and encourages children to have an emotion-based notion of identity where "feelings" determine one's gender. This type of psychological programming is grooming children to be gender dysphoric at a vulnerable time in their lives.
2. It problematizes puberty. 5th graders, for example, are encouraged to be angry about puberty and begin to question their biological sex. Teachers are instructed to promote puberty blockers as a solution. Nowhere does the curriculum identify side effects or even irreversible damage. Children are led to believe hormonal treatments and surgery are "only temporary."
3. Teachers are instructed to distinguish between sexual and reproductive systems, separating sex from baby-making. It does not divide biological sex into males and females but into "Reproductive System 1" or "2."
4. It blurs the distinctions between good and bad touch. In the lesson under sexual abuse, there are no standards of right and wrong kinds of touch; any touch is okay so long as there is "consent."
5. It encourages and promotes discrimination between those who take a classic biological identity versus those with a gender dysphoric identity, appointing those with dysphoric identities as historically marginalized and deserving of a praiseworthy and elevated social status to account for past "injustices."
6. It misleads troubled children. "Different Kinds of Families" and "The Family Book" wade into the territory of family values and morals that should be reserved for parent-child discussions. It says that every family arrangement is equally good; even a 5-year-old knows better, and lying to them about it is unethical.
7. It uses and encourages children to use LGBTQ community terminology, e.g., cisgender, transgender, "sex assigned at birth," etc.
8. It promotes that "feeling good" by children is the highest value and marker for being a good person.
9. It instructs us to believe that gender is accepted as the fundamental characteristic defining each person and is now treated as the most important qualification for social interactions.
10. It directs teachers to serve as ethics officers and moral authorities. They are to police speech and censor non-conforming kids.

There are many problems with the proposed 2022-2023 curriculum that the Galloway Township Public School system is ready to adopt. The most malicious is teaching Gender Theory to grade-school children, which is mandated by New Jersey law. It is pernicious in itself and not based on long-established science. Furthermore, gender instruction is created, distributed, and recommended by special interest and partisan political groups. By adopting it into law, the state puts you in conflict with its own educational code of ethics for school boards under [18A:12-24.1](#) paragraphs b and f.