

Statement of the Protect Nebraska Children Coalition on Aug 30, 2021

We are pleased the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the State Board of Education (SBOE) has proposed a statement to postpone the development of the health education standards

This process has been fraught with opacity and obfuscation from the very beginning. The citizens of Nebraska deserve better.

Our recently released information from a public records request revealed that Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) with its “social justice” agenda, originated with one un-elected activist. This activist, representing the Women’s Fund of Omaha, steered the development of the standards and supplied talking points to the NDE throughout the process. This activist provided the experts and the testifiers in favor of CSE. Deborah Neary, State Board Of Education Representative from district eight, was instrumental in getting this Women’s Fund of Omaha activist onto the advisory team as well as the other activists that were hand selected by the Women’s Fund of Omaha contact.

The Commissioner and the NDE leadership were complicit with this process. Many of the emails were copied to them. When the NDE staff copied and pasted the standards from the “National Sex Education Standards” published by siecus.org, it must be presumed that this source was accepted with the approval of the NDE supervisors.

Emails reveal that any alternate Sex Ed standards were rejected with derision. The Catholic Conference representative was shut out of the process. The public comments were called “hateful” and “not science”, “crazy” and a “load of crap”. Deborah Neary, upon learning that the Standards would be optional to local school boards, stated: “It is a horrifying thought that the local boards would merely leave the decisions about these standards to only the public comment portion. Those local board meetings would become a hornet’s nest of hate instead of informed discussions. Educational standards are not supposed to be based on public input”

Ms. Neary, in the same April 26 email to Board Members and NDE staff, laments the lack of informed input. “I want us to hear from doctors, health educators, therapists, early childhood experts, and psychologists”. Ironically, she and the rest of the Board DID hear from every type of specialist with every type of advanced degree, in 2 minute intervals, and in surveys and emails, over a period of 6 months. They chose to ignore us all.

At the outset of this process, it was clear that “diversity” was much more important than experience for choosing a writing team. Deborah Neary lamented the lack of “BIPOC” (black and indigenous persons of color) within the volunteers. She used that lack of “diversity” to lobby for the LGBTQ activists who then made up a large portion of the advisory group. At one point, an additional LGBTQ activist was recommended by the NDE Equity Officer to the NDE staffer who was putting the team together. The reply: “is she knowledgeable about Health and/or health education as well? Which is not pertinent, but would be a plus.”

Our information exposes a Department of Education and a Board that are being led by political interests. There appears to be little respect for the public that they were elected to serve.

As far as the Protect Nebraska Children Coalition and our stakeholders are concerned, we are unassuaged and remain resolute in our mission. We will continue to inform the public, expose malfeasance, and mobilize Nebraskans to protect the children of our beautiful state.

