

Comprehensive Sexuality Education in CUSD

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of the San Clemente Stake –

As you know, while the Church does not endorse political candidates or causes, it has always reserved the right to speak out on moral issues. I'm writing to bring such an issue to your attention, and to ask you to lend your voice to the call for appropriate teaching materials in our local public classrooms.

Many of you are aware that the Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) is adopting a comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) curriculum for middle school students to comply with a new state law. CSE is VERY different from any sex ed program with which you might be familiar. The original draft of this curriculum contained highly offensive, controversial, age-inappropriate and inaccurate material that would be inconsistent with the standards of any home, family or parent in our stake.

Thankfully, due to the hard work of members of our church and other churches in our area, district staff has agreed to remove some of the most blatantly-offensive portions from the original proposal. However, it appears that other inappropriate material remains. They justify this by citing, among other things, their stated belief that a majority of parents in our community do not object to the offensive content.

At a district-sponsored CSE information session in Ladera Ranch last week, a large group of alert parents showed up and questioned district staff about the inappropriate content. District personnel appeared to be taken aback by the volume of opposition, which clearly undercut the narrative that the content has majority support. But the staff will need to hear from many more concerned citizens before they are likely to revise the remaining materials.

This is where you can make a difference. CUSD is holding three additional CSE information sessions over the next eight days:

- Wednesday, December 5, 6:00-8:00 pm at Niguel Hills Middle School, 29070 Paseo Escuela, Laguna Niguel
- Thursday, December 6, 6:00-8:00 pm at Vista del Mar Elementary School, 1130 Avenida Talega, San Clemente
- Monday, December 10, 9:00-10:00 am at the District Office, 33122 Valle Road, SJC

It is critical that parents and other concerned citizens show up in significant numbers at every one of these sessions to respectfully but firmly question staff about the content and approach of the proposed curriculum. NO expertise is required – your presence, questions and expressions of concern will be enough. A list of relevant and respectful questions you could ask can be found on the home page of United Parents, a local parent organization that promotes appropriate CSE content, at <https://www.unitedparents.net>.

Please note that we ask that you NOT identify yourself as a Church member, or make any statement that would imply that you or any other person represents or speaks for the Church in this matter; any statement to that effect must come solely from our Regional Public Affairs

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representative. Your status as a concerned citizen, voter and parent (or grandparent, friend or advocate for children) will carry the most weight in this setting anyway.

We are informed that the staff is still putting the finishing touches on their proposal before it enters the district's formal curriculum approval process later this month. This means that there is still a narrow window in which to impact their final proposal. A strong showing at these information sessions is the best way to help the CUSD staff understand just how engaged parents actually are, so that they might consider changing course where necessary.

We encourage you to attend as many of these sessions as you can (bring a neighbor!) and to include this matter in your prayers. We further encourage you to stay informed and follow this important moral issue in our community and classrooms to its (hopefully favorable) conclusion.

Thanking you in advance for lending your precious time and voice to this cause,

[REDACTED]

San Clemente California Stake

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by [REDACTED] whose calling is Stake President.

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