

supporting transgender and gender expansive students in RPS as part of the policy development process during the 2023-2024 school year. I had hoped we could begin that process later in the fall. However, a number of issues have occurred that have convinced me that we need to disseminate administrative guidelines quite quickly to head off what otherwise would be difficult situations regarding locker room use and, to a lesser extent, bathroom use in a few of our schools -- one in particular (Kellogg) where the teacher's union has become quite involved.

>

> You will find attached the guidelines I have developed this week, which are largely based upon guidelines developed by the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA), as well as information provided by the school district's legal counsel. I am directing that the guidelines are to be implemented and enforced in Rochester Public Schools effective immediately, and they will remain in force until the Rochester School Board develops and approves a policy and/or procedures to support transgender and gender-expansive students later in the 2023-2024 school year.

>

> There are some issues that I think we need to deal with that aren't fully addressed in these guidelines, but I think (hope) this will be sufficient to resolve the concerns that would have been very disruptive for students.

>

> These guidelines will initially go out only to administrators tomorrow, and we are encouraging them to use them if and when issues involving transgender and gender expansive students arise in your school. Given the sensitivity of these issues at present, I think it's likely this may make the press.

>

> I have been coordinating this with Cathy and her involvement has been invaluable.

>

> Much more to come on this but I want you to have a heads up on this for now.

>

> Kent

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> --

> Kent Pekel, Ed.D.

> Superintendent of Schools

> Rochester, Minnesota

349 Body

350 Date

9/7/2023 5:47:00 PM

351 From

Kent Pekel <kepek@rochesterschools.org>

352 To

"Marvin, Jean" <JEMARVIN@rochesterschools.org>,
Catherine Nathan <canathan@rochesterschools.org>,
Jessica Garcia <jegarcia1@rochesterschools.org>,
Donald Barlow <dobarlow@rochesterschools.org>,
Karen MacLaughlin <kamaclaughlin@rochesterschools.org>,
Julia Workman <juworkman@rochesterschools.org>, Justin Cook <jucook@rochesterschools.org>

353 Subject

Guidelines for Supporting Transgender Students
Hello School Board Members,

As I believe you are all aware, I have recommended and discussed with the policy committee the need to articulate procedures for supporting transgender and gender expansive students in RPS as part of the policy development process during the 2023-2024 school year. I had hoped we could begin that process later in the fall. However, a number of issues have occurred that have convinced me that we need to disseminate administrative guidelines quite quickly to head off what otherwise would be difficult situations regarding locker room use and, to a lesser extent, bathroom use in a few of our schools -- one in particular (Kellogg) where the teacher's union has become quite involved.

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354 Body

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Kent

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Kent Pekel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Rochester, Minnesota

355 Date 9/13/2023 1:38:00 PM

356 From [REDACTED]

357 To Catherine Nathan <canathan@rochesterschools.org>

358 Subject Re: referendum information table at Districtwide Ski Club Parent Night @ John Adams November 1 Done.

I would love to discuss the "ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES FOR SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-EXPANSIVE STUDENTS" whenever you're available. Section 13, labeled Parent Access to Information, will be a thorny topic from legal and safety standpoints.

[REDACTED] (he/him)
Rochester Public Schools / Community Education
<<https://www.rochesterce.org/enrichment/youth>>
Youth Enrichment Coordinator - Middle and High School
Rochester Regional STEM Fair Director - Volunteer Opportunities
<<https://www.rochesterce.org/o/ce/page/stem-volunteers>>
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 12:29â€PM Catherine Nathan <canathan@rochesterschools.org> wrote:

> [REDACTED] - If you have a table for us outside the auditorium, that would be perfect. Thanks! Cathy

>
> On Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 12:09â€PM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>> You could set up a table outside. It's a meeting in the auditorium, not really an open house atmosphere. I could ask the JA custodial staff to leave a table out. You could be there at 6:30 PM and try to talk to families before they enter the auditorium. If this works for you, please let me know.

359 Body

>> [REDACTED] (he/him)
>> Rochester Public Schools / Community Education
>> <<https://www.rochesterce.org/enrichment/youth>>
>> Youth Enrichment Coordinator - Middle and High School
>> Rochester Regional STEM Fair Director
>> [REDACTED]

>> On Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 11:21â€AM Catherine Nathan <canathan@rochesterschools.org> wrote:

>>> Hi [REDACTED]!
>>> I am helping our Referendum team to coordinate opportunities for the District to distribute information about the November 7 referendum. Would