

NEW PARENT NOTIFICATION POLICY FOR ASD PROPOSAL

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DAVE DONLEY IS REQUESTING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR HIS PROPOSAL TO INSURE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION IN ANCHORAGE SCHOOLS

By Member Dave Donley submitted August 2023
[New policy language being proposed is bold and underlined]

If a student or parent requests transition[s] regarding gender, legal name, or pronoun during the school year, the principal will hold a meeting with the student and parent(s) to discuss their desires and concerns.

If a student communicates, they wish to be addressed differently than the student's legal name and the pronoun corresponding to the student's gender assigned at birth the student's parents shall be notified and written permission from a parent obtained before the name or pronoun used by the school to address or refer to the parent's child in person, on school identification, or in school records is changed.

If evidence exists that notification of a parent is likely to endanger the student, the Superintendent may confidentially seek School Board approval to not require parental notification.

The next Anchorage School Board meeting is Tuesday August 6 at 6pm at 5530 E Northern Lights Blvd Education Center. Until the morning before the meeting starts the public can call (907-742-4315) or IN-PERSON before meeting starts sign up to testify (in person or by telephone) for 3 minutes.

Currently, the Anchorage School Board has never voted on this matter of parental notification. The current status is that in 2020, the Administration adopted an "administrative guideline" limiting parental notification regarding gender, names and pronouns chosen by secondary (middle and high school) students. Only the school board can adopt "policy" but until the board adopts a policy the administrative guidelines are in effect. The Administration and Board have refused to consider Member Donley's policy proposal with the reason given as wanting to wait until the new "Title IX guidelines" by the Biden Administration were provided. In May this year those guidelines were provided mandating denial of parent notification. But the implementation of those Biden guidelines has been blocked in Alaska by Federal District court decisions.

Relevant portions of the existing ASD "Administrative Guidelines: Working with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students and Employee" revised August 20, 2020, are on the next page.

This communication is from Dave Donley as an individual member of the Anchorage School Board and parent; and does not represent the position of the Anchorage School Board or the Anchorage School District.

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EXISTING "Administrative Guidelines: Working with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students and Employee" revised August 20, 2020

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IX. NAMES AND PRONOUNS:

A. Administrators and staff should respect the right of an individual to be addressed by a name and pronoun that corresponds to their gender identity. A court-ordered name or gender change is not required, and the student need not change his or her official records.

B. Transgender and gender nonconforming students/employees should be asked privately how they want to be addressed in class, in the workplace, in correspondence to the home, or at conferences with the student's parent/ guardian.

C. When contacting the parent or guardian of a transgender student, school staff should use the student's legal name and the pronoun corresponding to the student's gender assigned at birth, unless the student, parent, or guardian has specified otherwise.

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XIV. STUDENT TRANSITIONS:

In order to maintain privacy and confidentiality regarding student transition and gender identity, the school shall act in accordance with the following age appropriate policies:

A. Elementary: Generally, it will be the parent or guardian that informs the school of the impending transition. However, it is not unusual for a student's desire to transition to first surface at school. If school staff believes that a gender identity or expression issue is presenting itself and creating difficulty for the student at school, approaching parents about the issue is appropriate at the elementary level. Together, the family and school can then identify appropriate steps to support the student.

B. Secondary: Generally, notification of a student's parent about his or her gender identity, expression or transition is unnecessary, as they are already aware and may be supportive. In some cases, however, notifying parents carries risks for the student if the family does not support the student's desire to transition. Prior to notification of any parent or guardian regarding the transition process, school staff should work closely with the student to assess the degree to which, if any, the parent/guardian will be involved in the process, considering at all times the health, well-being, and safety of the transitioning student.

When a student transitions during the school year, the principal will hold a meeting with the student and parent(s) to discuss their desires and concerns. The principal should discuss the student's timeline for the transition process in order to create the conditions supporting a safe and accepting environment at the school.