

June 27th, 2024

To Whomever This May Concern,

My name is [FirstName] Gu and I am the mother of [Children's Names] who are currently attending this middle school.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank and commend all the teachers and staff at this school for their hard work in trying to teach their students with the utmost responsibility and care, to give these children a place to grow, prosper, and cultivate their minds, skills, and learning in a safe environment. My children have been able to witness this the past year through a visible improvement in their learning skills as international students at this school. My daughter [Name] has thankfully been able to successfully graduate from [Name] Middle School and move towards highschool thanks to this very care that this school has provided. This school, as well as many others in the Toronto District School Board, have also adhered to an educational policy that looks to emphasize and respect the importance of diverse values and beliefs. This has allowed me to put great trust in the TDSB education system in creating an environment for children to learn, but also share and express their beliefs in a safe place.

However, when my family and I wish to express our beliefs in a respectable manner it poses the question as to why these beliefs, opposed to any others, are not just as equally respected at this very school? Why is my family not afforded the basic human rights to be able to have the freedom of choice or speech to not partake in the sex education or be given notice of this as it goes against my beliefs?

Last December, in an email letter (attached below) I delivered to this school specifically requesting in ADVANCED that I may be made aware of the sex education assembly and be given a form of consent for my child to attend the assembly as Policy/Program Memorandum 162 states MUST be done. However, I was met with neither a response, nor any prior notice through form or letter in regards to the assembly that has taken place. You can see below as attached the detailed policy/form as well as the example letters that should have been sent.

Moreover, even though my daughter [Name] clearly expressed her intention not to attend the assembly, we have been told that the homeroom teacher forced the child to attend by shouting obscenely at her in front of all the other students sitting. The child was, with good reason, shocked and embarrassed on the spot for expressing what is her right and being ridiculed for it in front of all her classmates. [Name] appears to have suffered significant psychological shock from this traumatic experience. We are very worried that this may cause trauma to the child in the future, and we are also considering the need for psychiatric counseling.

Moving forward from this incident we ask that you adhere to the statues of Policy/Form Memorandum 162, and educate all teachers that is by law that a parent has a right to be made aware of in advance (a

minimum of 20 school days as stated) as well as given the choice to have their child exempt from instructions related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations as directly quoted from the policy. Furthermore, the rights of our children who do not wish to attend such assemblies within good reason should be guaranteed as a basic human right.

Most importantly, I was informed that my daughter's homeroom teacher has also been teaching anti-Christian ideas to children for a short period of time during class. Would this school who posts extensively about anti-Islamophobia on their website allow any teacher to be teaching anti-Islam ideas in class? I would like to be shown what curriculum this teacher had grounds to be teaching this, and if this content is permitted under TDSB regulations. This is an act of hate, and would not be tolerated if it were any other minority group, religion, or belief system.

I am open to discussion in regards to anything I may be wrong about, and look to hear back from this school regarding this matter. Should [name] Middle School not respond in the appropriate amount of time, then we will be forced to inform, not only TDSB, but will also consider taking legal actions on the basis of an inability to follow Policy/Form Memorandum 162.

During the graduation speech that the principal gave this year, I found the speech given to be rather witty and filled with moving and valuable advice for not only the graduating class but also to the parents listening as well. I find this correspondence and circumstance unfortunate, but we as parents of international students would greatly appreciate the consideration of our desire for our values and rights to be upheld.

Sincerely,

[FirstName] Gu

(Signed)