

A.O.'s Speech from 2-28-2022 School Board Meeting

(2:04:50 on video) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzNLV6lWzrg&t=6252s>)

Dear Board of Directors,

I believe in our district's mission which reads "to educate and inspire our students to achieve their personal best."

President Tiernan, recently you concluded a meeting by emphasizing how important that mission is for ALL students. I agree.

I believe logic and reason, when applied fairly and judiciously, can achieve that goal and sustain it over time. Every student should be welcomed and inspired to achieve their personal best in this district.

My concern is that the proposed comprehensive plan will not get us there. It will lead to more discrimination than inclusion in many different ways. It discriminates on skin color, sex, and other immutable traits while also violating civil rights and exposing the school district to lawsuits. The comprehensive plan is built on the University of Pennsylvania's Equity Audit of our district. The comprehensive plan and the equity audit are two peas in a pod. Take a look at the University of Pennsylvania and how they are trying to achieve equity, but instead are creating discrimination in its wake. Many have read in the news that a boy from the men's swim team has joined the women's swim team.

When he swam on the men's team, he was *not* a top performer. Now, when he swims for the women's team, he is setting records and earning first place times, robbing women of victory and future opportunities. This new reality is fast becoming a national trend because of equity ideologies.

At every district board meeting, we hear from our wonderful student leaders about the success of the various sports teams at each of our high schools. If the district follows the University of Pennsylvania's logic then the next women's star basketball player, the fastest swimmer, and the best athletes will be boys on the girls' teams.

Is this what you want for our daughters? To play second fiddle to men? If you vote for this new comprehensive plan that is exactly what you will be saying to our girls... there is a new glass ceiling, and it is boys who identify as girls. There is no limiting principle in the University of Pennsylvania's equity audit of our district that would stop us from reaching this point. We may not get there in one week, in one month or even in one year, but it is the final destination on the path you are headed.

(Was cut off here.) We know it. You know it. Everybody knows it. So, please, stop it now. Let reason and logic prevail.

Thank you for your time.