

COMMUNITY VALUES STATEMENT

I, _____,
(resident name)

have noted changes in the school's trajectory in recent years. As a tax paying citizen in the _____ Kirkwood district I am sending this statement to express my concern about these changes and desire to see the _____ Kirkwood school board to direct a more balanced approach.

I do not support any of the schools of _____ Kirkwood School District incorporating any activity that deprives students, teachers, and other district employees of equal dignity and protection of their natural, God-given, constitutional, and/or legal rights by promoting any of the following ideas or actions:

- Any race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and/or socio-economic status is inherently superior or inferior to any other race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and/or socio-economic status.
- Fundamentally negative perceptions of our country, our state, or our local governments and institutions and/or those who serve therein.
- The values, principles, and/or ideals of one's own, one's family, one's religion, are incorrect, inferior, and/or limiting them from academic growth and development.

Our community is diverse and I do not support, nor wish for my contribution to our schools to support, any actions which foster discrimination. Please note that such actions are prohibited by federal and state law as well as school board policy.

Our teachers/school staff have chosen an honorable career and we wish to support them in that as they support our community parents in raising their own child(ren). I expect them to take their position of influence seriously and respect the beliefs and views of our community.

In line with the Entitlement Clause of the First Amendment, I expect that teachers/staff employed by the _____ Kirkwood public schools will not promote any one belief, political position or sectarian view over another.

NOTE:

*In the case of **Pelozza v. Capistrano Unified School District**, the Court stated this about teachers:*

While at the high school, whether he is in the classroom or outside of it during contract time, Pelozza is not just an ordinary citizen. He is a teacher. He is one of those especially respected persons chosen to teach in the high school's classroom. He is clothed with the mantle of one who imparts knowledge and wisdom. His expressions of opinion are all the more believable because he is a teacher. The likelihood of high school students equating his views with those of the school is substantial. To permit him to discuss his beliefs with students during school time on school grounds would violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Promoting would include any of the following:

1. Advocating in a way that would make it appear to a reasonable person that the _____ Kirkwood School District sponsors, approves of, or endorses those views.
2. Contracting with, hiring, or otherwise engaging speakers, consultants, trainers, and other persons who advocate religious or sectarian theories or beliefs to my/our child(ren), parents, teachers, district employees, or the community.
3. Compelling students, parents, teachers, the community, and/or any district employees of _____ Kirkwood School District to affirm or profess belief in any religious or sectarian theories or beliefs in violation of their individual beliefs.

COMMUNITY VALUES STATEMENT (CONT.)

4. Discriminatory identification, recognition, segregation, and/or treatment of students, teachers, or district employees in the _____ Kirkwood _____ School District based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and/or socio-economic status, including educational and training sessions.

The _____ Kirkwood _____ School District Board of Education should be aware that promoting religious or sectarian theories and beliefs are counter to the Missouri Constitution Article IX Section 8 which states that “...no school district shall ever make an appropriation or pay from any public fund...anything in aid of any...religious...or sectarian purpose...”

As a member of this community, I expect the _____ Kirkwood _____ Board of Education and the _____ Kirkwood _____ School District to ensure students, teachers, and other district employees will not be discriminated or harassed in school programs, services, activities, hiring, and facilities.

As a member of this community, I expect the _____ Kirkwood _____ Board of Education and the _____ Kirkwood _____ School District to adhere to the proper standards in developing and adopting policies, ***in consultation with parents.***

This includes but is not limited to:

- addressing the protection of student privacy and parents’ rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)
- provide proper, direct notification to all parents of students in our district regarding certain scheduled or expected to be scheduled activities or surveys and certain non-emergency, invasive physical examinations or screenings
- reserve any instruction or dissemination of information about sexuality, sexual identity, gender identity, or sexual lifestyles to specified curriculum beginning in 6th grade which shall be submitted to parents for parental approval
- discontinue any materials or instructional methods which foster discrimination or harassment as defined above

(Signature of Resident)

Address:
