

OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Membership Application
Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory Board
(PHASE)

Date 5/8/21

Name Martha Nokken Home Phone 517 256-3773

Address 918 Rosewood Ave City East Lansing

Occupation VP Patient Care Operations, Planned Parenthood Work Phone Same as home

Email Address Marnokken@gmail.com

Please check an appropriate category (you may check more than one):

Interested Citizen Elementary/Middle/High School Parent
 Community Health Professional Ages of any children 10 and 12

1. Overall, what are your perceptions regarding health and sexuality education within public schools?

Health and sexuality education in schools is vital. When students have access to fact based, unbiased information, combined with discussions with parents/guardians/ trusted adults, they are more likely to delay sexual activity. They are also more likely to engage in less risky behavior when they do decide to become sexually active. It is important to give students facts and not rely on them to educate each other using information from untrustworthy sources.

2. Do you have any comments about sexuality education within the Okemos district in particular?

Overall, I think Okemos has taken a good approach and would like to move the curriculum to one that is more inclusive for students who do not identify as traditionally cis gender heterosexuals.

3. Why are you interested in serving on this committee?

It is awkward enough discussing these issues with your own child. I can only imagine how difficult it is for teachers navigating this discussion with children from a broad range of backgrounds. I would like to ensure that those teachers are provided with the tools and information to be comfortable and successful in teaching this vital course.

4. What specific issues do you believe this committee should address? Please list in order of priority.

Evidence and fact based information
The move towards more inclusive language; girl/boy to people with penis/people with vulva
The definition of sexual activity to go beyond penis/vagina to fully inform and educate about risks associated with any type of sexual behavior.

5. What assets, background, past experiences, useful knowledge, etc., do you have that may assist this committee?

I have worked at Planned Parenthood for 25 years, providing education to patients and our community. I have also worked with our education department in various peer education programs. Additionally, I am a mother of two children that ask a lot of questions and give me feedback about the information they receive at school- both from sanctioned education sessions as well as from their peers.

6. Are you an employee of the Okemos school district? _____ Yes No

7. Are you willing to come regularly to four to five evening meetings per school year for a period of three years?

Yes

Information for the Applicant

The Health and Sexuality Education Advisory Board has been charged with the following responsibilities:

1. Review and recommend instructional materials, guest speakers, and programs which are a part of the comprehensive sexual health program
2. On a regular basis, review methods of instruction and assist in evaluation of the comprehensive sexual health program, reporting to the Board of Education as required
3. Work closely with the school administration in the implementation of this program.
4. Review with policy and/or State guidelines and make recommendations to the Board of Education for needed changes.
5. Perform other duties as suggested by the Supervisor of Reproductive Health, Board of Education, or the Superintendent of Schools.

A reasonable effort shall be made to ensure that the advisory board shall consist of members representing a cross-section of community viewpoints.

Applications are due by May 14th, and should be mailed or emailed to:

Stacey Molenda
Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent
4006 N. Okemos Rd.
Okemos, MI 48864
stacey.molenda@okemosk12.net

Your application will be forwarded to a subcommittee of the Okemos Parent Council, who review the applications and recommend applicants to the Okemos School Board. This process may take up to two months. You will be notified in writing about the status of your application after School Board approval.

Thank you very much for your interest in participating in the process of personal health and sexuality education in Okemos Public Schools.

5. **What assets, background, past experiences, useful knowledge, etc., do you have that may assist this committee?**

For over 20-years I have been a public health researcher. I am trained social worker and have spent much of my career working in areas relevant to sexual and reproductive health, as well as studying protective factors among adolescents.

I am a parent with 3-kids in the district and an Okemos community member.

6. **Are you an employee of the Okemos school district?** _____ Yes No

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Applications are due by May 28th, and should be mailed or emailed to:

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