

November 20, 2015

Dear Members of the Nova School Board:

Attached is an **updated** petition signed in support of using My Princess Boy (or similar materials) as part of our anti-bullying program. Approximately 150 people signed including parents, students, alumni, grandparents, teachers, and staff.

This petition was created using a free, online service that normally would've been open to whomever came across it. Because I wanted feedback only from our community, and not the general public, the petition was password protected.

As you look through the names, please keep the following in mind; we did not delete any names, as we didn't want there to be any discrepancies in the numbering system. There are duplicates and some names are questionable. Additionally there are identical surnames, which would indicate they are from the same household. However, we didn't want to assume anything, so we left those names in as well.

Thank you -
Robin Cerio

11/18/15

To Whom It May Concern,

In light of the events that have unfolded within the Nova community regarding the school's anti-bullying efforts and its responsibility to create and provide a safe space free from harm and harassment for all students, it has been noted that members of this community have taken action on the side of fear and suspicion, or perhaps worry and nervousness. To balance this appeal, I'd like to encourage and recommend that members of the Nova community attend the scheduled Parent Education night on Gender Identity scheduled for [December 7 at 6:30pm](#). Education is empowerment. Knowledge is power. With it, we can dissipate and dispel fear, misunderstanding, and ignorance. Use knowledge to create understanding and compassion.

Thank you.

Shelley Steingraeber

1st grade teacher

11/18/15

Hello,

Thank you for adding weighted GPA.

I'm the dad of a Senior at Nova, Nick Kirby.

In trying to let college admissions staff understand how to compare Nova with thousands of other schools, this is an additional tool.

This will be a benefit for all the Nova kids.

Well, at this point, some of them.

Nick has been at Nova from Kindergarten to Senior.

His class is the first to have an entire Nova education.

It is a small class of a few dozen kids and not a huge task to add the weighted GPA to their records.

Delaying it sounds like a last protest against the ubiquitous weighted GPA by Nova staff unwilling to get on board, at the cost of the Nova senior class's future.

Or perhaps a year long holding action to see if the weighted GPA and the small amount of additional work it entails can be overturned.

Or perhaps some other reasons that are not apparent.

In any case, don't let our seniors suffer, please have the senior records reflect a weighted grade point too.

Please make them get on the stick and get it done now, college apps are in progress.

Thanks very much.

Bryan Kirby

11/18/15

To whom it may concern of the Nova Board,

Please allow teachers to use books like, "My Princess Boy" or something similar. It is important for children to learn about ALL kinds of diversity so that all students feel safe and respected. Thank you for putting your careful thought and consideration into this matter.

Sincerely,
Jessie McClary
Parent

11/18/15

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong support in the reading of this book or a book with similar content in the lower school and/or the poem sent out by Mr. Williams. I believe it is important to help children draw the lines between the virtues and situations that arise where they may not make the connection that their virtues should be used. This is clearly the case for this situation as there has been enough teasing to cause the parents to not send their child to breakfast. While Nova considers parents the primary educators, I do not find these readings to take away from that. I know that I have already discussed the situation and how they should behave with my children. In addition, after the poem is read at school I will ask about what they heard in order to continue the discussion.

I attended both the board meeting where there was public comment and the listening session. There were many compassionate and supportive comments made. I was really struck by the passionate support of many of the Nova teachers. I already knew there were great teachers at Nova and this kind of support serves to underline that sentiment. I would be happy to have them guide my children on the appropriate behavior for this circumstance.

Susan Olshanski