

From: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/21/2021 4:02:11 PM
To: Leigh Webb <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: IHS Homecoming Float Concern

Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

FYI.

Jason Golden
Superintendent
Williamson County Schools
[REDACTED]

From: Lisa [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: IHS Homecoming Float Concern

Mr. Golden,

Thank you for taking time to respond. I do appreciate that. I'm not on social media, so I wasn't even aware there were accusations of inappropriate student conduct. I'm speaking only from the specific experience I had on the day of the parade with a couple of my students as the float passed us.

I reached out to you because I believe my role as one of your staff is to speak up when I see things that I believe might need some thought and discussion as we navigate the diversity of our student body. I've been an educator with WCS for 16 years and watched this parade from Heritage Elementary School, and Heritage Middle School. Student-led clubs in the parade have gone without incident because they were appropriate and related to school activities. There was nothing controversial about any of the floats that I've ever witnessed. Comparing a float that has a sexual themed topic to the traditional club floats we've had is not equitable. The topic of homosexuality and sexual orientation is a topic that is a social and religious topic, and one that touches a nerve with many of our families when the school interjects it into their children's lives without due notice to the parents. I'm guessing the reason we are experiencing this as an incident is because this float ventured beyond the realm of academics, sports and traditional clubs into territory that may or may not be appropriate for our school to promote to all students. We serve a very diverse clientele in public education, and it is my opinion that we need to honor the fact that a sensitive topic like this will not be received from all families in the same way. I am just suggesting that we might give some notice next time and an opt out choice for parents who don't wish for their students, especially elementary aged ones, to view a float of this nature.

I know that reaching out is a risk I take, but I felt it was important enough to do so. Again, thank you for your response. I know you are very busy, as am I, and it means a lot that you replied.

Lisa

From: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Lisa Martin <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Leigh Webb <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: IHS Homecoming Float Concern

Ms. [REDACTED]

For years, IHS, the high school in your school's feeder pattern, has had student-led clubs participate in the homecoming parade, apparently without incident. I don't know that the goal has been the inclusivity that you mention but rather simply a history of student-led clubs participating.

This year, there have been allegations of inappropriate student behavior that included social media claims about behavior in front of elementary and middle school students that have been denied by the high school students being accused. IHS' administration can't find any truth to those allegations of bad behavior in front of elementary or middle school students that you are alluding to. With social media access being pretty extensive, another possibility is that your students have asked questions based on comments they've read on social media rather than the parade itself I hope you've already shared with Dr. Patton what you've heard from your students about this event to help her investigate. If you haven't, the school is still investigating this. If you have any personal knowledge of students acting inappropriately or even if you only have second-hand information from your students about what they saw, I have cc'd Dr. Webb since she is working with Dr. Patton to investigate those claims posted on social media. I have cc'd Dr. Webb on this email so that you can follow up with her on what you've heard from your students.

Jason Golden
Superintendent
Williamson County Schools
[REDACTED]

From: Lisa [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: IHS Homecoming Float Concern

Mr. Golden,

I am writing as both a teacher and a parent of a WCS student. For the first time, I noticed we had a float representing "pride" in the Homecoming parade. I just wanted to share a couple of thoughts about this for consideration next year.

I know the goal was inclusivity, but sexual orientation in itself is not an "activity," like track or Spanish club.

Would we allow our high school students to have a heterosexual pride float where they were celebrating their sexuality? I'm not sure the Homecoming parade is the appropriate venue for addressing sexual identity. There could be other more appropriate venues within the walls of IHS that wouldn't have impacted younger students, in my opinion.

I feel we also need to respect and value that our families come from a diverse background as far as belief systems and religious beliefs. Especially at the elementary school level, I think we should've given parents a choice regarding viewing of the parade, considering the nature of that float. Many parents would not wish their children to be exposed to that, and whether we personally agree or disagree with the concept of homosexuality, some people do not want their children to be exposed to that for moral or religious reasons.

They wouldn't have expected that to happen at school without their consent, and I'm sure many felt caught off guard and deprived of their parental right to give consent to view something of this nature.

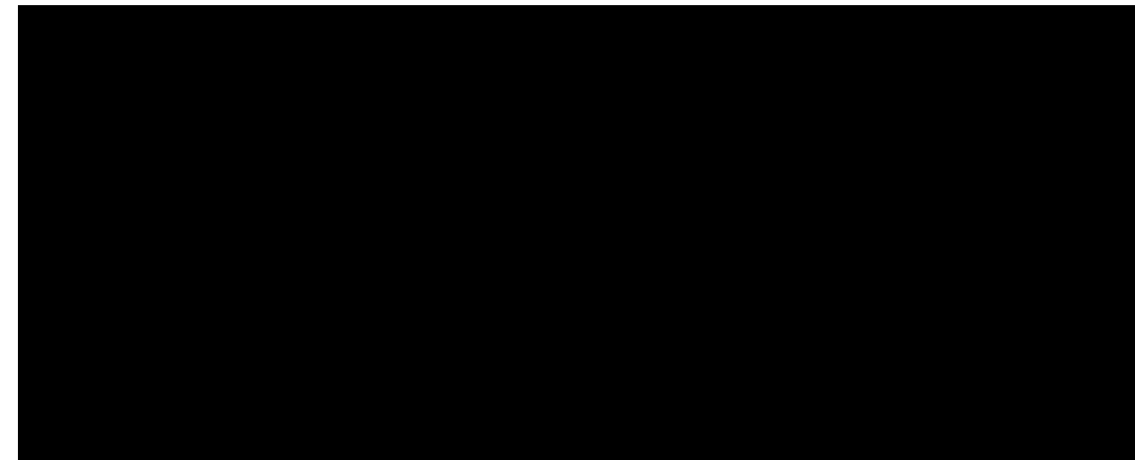
I think we respect the rights of all when we have choices in situations like this. If this is going to be the norm now, I just think parents need to have advance notice so they can make decisions for their children. I had several students who made comments to me, and it was uncomfortable to have to try to explain things of this nature, when I don't feel it is my place. As a teacher, I was caught off guard, too.

I see both sides of this issue, and think the best recourse is communication and offering choice to honor the integrity of everyone involved.

No response is necessary. I just wanted to express my concerns. Thank you!

Lisa

Lisa [REDACTED]



From: Lisa [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/21/2021 3:32:41 PM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: IHS Homecoming Float Concern
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

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Williamson County Schools
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To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
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Lisa



From: Pamela McClure <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 9/21/2021 11:46:31 AM
To: Jennifer Aprea <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Subject: Support for Indy Pride students - please ensure their safety!

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for your work on supporting diversity, equity and inclusion in our schools. I'm the parent of two seniors at Centennial High School, and a member of the Williamson Social Justice Alliance (WJSA) and One WillCo. And I fully support the Independence High School group, Indy Pride.

I'm disappointed by the hate and vitriol directed at Indy Pride members and their float during the Indy homecoming parade. I urge the administration at HIS and WCS to ensure the safety, both physically and otherwise, of LGBTQIA+ students. As with all WCS students, these courageous Indy students deserve dignity, respect and safety. High school is hard enough without having your peers (and their parents) booing you and posting your image with negative commentary on social media.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Pamela McClure
[REDACTED]

****WJSA** stands for the equality and liberty of students in our schools, be that in skin color, sex, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or gender identity, and believe that everyone, regardless of personal values, wishes equal treatment and opportunity for each student in Williamson County.

****Indy Pride** is Independence High School's new club focused on spreading "awareness of LGBTQIA+ students in the IHS community." They push for awareness and representation of LGBTQIA+ students and believe that all people should be respected and appreciated regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, etc.