

OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

School board's pillow talk punishes parents and students



Bluegrass Beacon By Jim Waters

Some school board members exhibit more passion for what happens in a teacher's bedroom than in the teacher's classroom.

If they focused more on improving Kentucky schools, parents would sleep a lot better.

An example: The Jefferson County Board of Education voted 4-3 on Nov. 26 to add special protection for its harassment and employment policies.

The problem: Teachers aren't being harassed, but because of their sexual preferences.

At least they aren't filing official complaints with Jefferson County, the state's largest school district.

I figured my glasses had to be smudged or dirty and slipped them off to clean the lenses.

Then why couldn't I ask the numbers before? I asked myself: I held up my glasses to the light to see how dirty the lenses were.

That's when I remember I had a light case on the shelves when I woke up that morning.

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TWIN PIN LANS

even be able to read the front-page stories about the issue? Test scores indicate many could not.

It would be different if current policies allowed homosexuals to be harassed. No one should be discriminated against.

Those who would condemn Grimm are the same geniuses who accuse anyone pointing out failure in Kentucky's public schools.

But that won't stop some from charging me and conscientious parents like Grimm with being homophobic or bigoted.

I've had to scrap the head cold theory. I'm convinced I have it figured out now.

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Secret Heart Academy. "But we haven't ruled out that we would send her to a public school in the future," Grimm said.

That doesn't sound like a bigoted, anti-public education redneck to me.

Those who would condemn Grimm are the same geniuses who accuse anyone pointing out failure in Kentucky's public schools.

But am I "anti-public education" for reporting that 38 percent of students who were freshmen in Jefferson County's high schools in 1999 did not graduate in 2003?

I bet the parents of special-needs students don't consider me opposed to public education for noting that the average student achievement gaps in CATS scores worsened as their children get pushed from one grade

to another. "In Louisville's elementary schools, the learning-disabled kids trail in proficiency by 22 points in reading and 23 points in math, but by middle school, they trail by an alarming 41 points in reading and 32 points in math," said noted education expert Richard Innes.

Innes has closely followed developments in our state education system, particularly since the Kentucky Education Reform Act passed 17 years ago.

Jim Waters is the director of policy and communications for the Bluegrass Institute, Kentucky's free-market think tank. You can reach him at jwaters@bipspp.org.

State Representative Carolyn Belcher's seat is OPEN.

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IN THE KITCHEN



Clockwise from left: Chopped Italian Salad with Italian Vinaigrette, Loaded Baked Potato Casserole, Curried Peanut Butter Sauce, and Roasted Chicken Provincial

CREATING Holiday Mealtime TRADITIONS

For many of us, the holiday season stirs up warm memories of home, scents of family meals and generations of rituals.

Whether it is a signature dish or an after-dinner ritual, and many of those customs happen in the kitchen and at the dinner table.

Loaded Baked Potato Casserole 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese 1/2 cup sour cream 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Chopped Italian Salad with Italian Vinaigrette 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar 1/2 cup olive oil 1 pinch salt 1 pinch pepper

Pan Roasted Chicken Provincial 1/3 cup Pillsbury BEST® All Purpose Flour 3/4 lb. chicken breasts and thighs (4 each)

IGA Vegetable Oil 48 oz. 2 for \$4

Kraft Miracle Whip 32oz. 2 for \$5

Country Crock 3 lb. 2 for \$4

Curried Peanut Butter Sauce 1/2 cup Peanut Butter 1/2 cup Creamy Peanut Butter 1/2 cup apricot extract

Chopped Italian Salad 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar 1/2 cup olive oil 1 pinch salt 1 pinch pepper

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