

## Not About Banning Books...

**Citizens for Quality Education seek to encourage our educators and administrators to:**

- **Inform parents directly**, not through the students, well in advance of the use of any controversial instructional materials.
- **Cooperate** with students and parents who do not want their families values to be undermined by controversial topics in the classroom.
- **Respect** all students' and parents' backgrounds even when they do not agree with them.
- **Provide a rigorous curriculum** that is characterized by uplifting ideas of hope and courage rather than those of indecency and raunchiness.
- **Discontinue showing "R" rated movies** in school, as we believe there is better material from which our students can learn.
- **Introduce an OPT-IN Policy** for matters relating to controversial issues, allowing parents to approve beforehand.



Be sure to stay in contact!

[www.citizensforqualityeducation.org](http://www.citizensforqualityeducation.org)

Citizens for Quality Education

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Citizens for  
Quality  
Education

Giving You the  
Information  
You Need  
about  
**High School  
District 214**



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## Who is CQE?

### Citizens for Quality Education

is a group representing parents, neighbors and residents in District 214 who want the best for their students. We believe that many educators in District 214 are working hard to do a quality job of instructing our students, and we are appreciative! But we also believe we can do even better and that standards must be set leading to higher ground, stronger character and better quality education overall.

While not resting on past laurels, our educators should be paving the way for optimally preparing our students to stay competitive in a globalized society. CQE believes that quality education is embodied through the use of challenging educational curriculum; but not that which is so controversial that it offends community standards and basic decency. Educational materials that comprise lewd materials, present unhealthy lifestyles, or use language that cannot be printed in local papers or violate FCC standards should not be used in the classroom.

We also believe true diversity is a wonderful thing where it embodies cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds. All students should be regarded with respect and never mistreated for who or what they are. But this does not mean affirming unorthodox lifestyles or risky, unhealthy behaviors.

Some school board members seem immune to fresh thinking. Instead of exhibiting openness to the ideas of constituents and transparency with respect to their decision making processes, they instead prefer to dig in their heels when their decisions are challenged. Perhaps they feel that their tenure is reason enough to ignore parents' legitimate concerns.

### CQE Meets with Superintendent of District 214

On Aug 8, 2006, a meeting was held with the Superintendent, Dr. David Schuler and Dr. Michael Damyanovich, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services. They reported the communication of policies and process as they now stand; consistency of practice throughout departments and district schools; and documentation of feedback from parents and students. In the past, teachers handled any discussion about controversial materials and did not inform a department head or administration, but now they should.


Due to CQE parents voicing concerns, the controversial issues policy was included in all schools' August Parent Newsletters and it is contained in the print and online version of "What Parents Should Know". Next year, it will be included in the student handbook. The printing deadline had passed and therefore is not included this year.

Other action has been taken by the district. Course Information Sheets will be developed that list the instructional materials and media used in each course. Watch for this information at the parent meetings.

How can you help? - Go to the CQE website to see how your confidential information can help!

[www.citizensforqualityeducation.org](http://www.citizensforqualityeducation.org)

We need students and parents to keep us abreast of what is happening in our schools. Are you willing to share information about class assignments and instruction that seem unbalanced or controversial? Review the handouts your student is receiving in class. Talk to your student about what they are learning. Our website makes communicating incidents simple and maintains anonymity. CQE wants to know and you can help! E-mail, fax, or send controversial materials by snail mail.

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### What Kind of Issues Concern CQE Parents?

Some specific examples of situations are as follows:

- **Imbalanced approach to political issues** - At the beginning of the school year, Hersey freshman must decide whether they are a "progressive" or a "conservative". The way the questionnaire is worded, no student would ever say they are a conservative, due to the unfavorable, biased labels.
- **R-rated movies** - A student was forced to watch nudity in a movie without having been warned, nor did the teacher request that students bring home permission slips to parents, per the controversial issues policy. The teacher could have easily fast forwarded the movie segments that did not meet educational goals. Instead, the teacher made unprofessional comments about the nudity.
- **Indecent or lewd materials** - As the May 25th board meeting revealed, there are some books that simply should not be a part of the curriculum.
- **Inappropriate staff actions**

We need parent-student notification of this type of information and descriptions of these situations. Bring these to our attention at CQE!

We're committed to ensuring that both quality education and respect for all happens... and we've got an eagle eye and sources throughout the district providing us inside perspectives.... *Visit our Up-to-Date Info webpage* often to find out what's really going on. Tell us when you see things that don't seem right. Forward us school materials that are agenda laden. We want to know... we owe it to our youth!



**We are thankful for our district's educators who respect each family's values.**