



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

files

December 1, 1988

St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch
345 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the proposed State Board of Education rule on Multicultural and Gender-Fair Curriculum. As reported in the November 20th PPD, final action is scheduled for the Board's December meeting. We hope the Board will approve this rule.

For too long, understanding of and appreciation for the cultural diversity of the United States and the contributions of all groups within our citizenry have been neglected. Action on the rule will conclude a long process and will set in motion plans which will create inclusive educational programs in our public elementary and secondary schools.

LWVMN has worked during its entire history for equity in public services, including education. We agree with those who feel that programs in our schools must reflect the diversity of our citizenry. We believe that all students need preparation for functioning in a society which is becoming more multicultural each year. Moreover, students whose heritage is not presently represented in materials found in Minnesota classrooms are not being equally served.

State Board Guidelines, in place since the early 1970's have proven insufficient to achieve inclusive programs in our schools. LWVMN believes the proposed rule provides for a reasonable and effective process for achieving that goal. In addition, we support the measure in the rule which will assure accountability to local citizens as well as to the state.

We commend the State Board of Education and Department of Education staff for drafting and proposing this measure.

Sincerely,

Jane McWilliams
Jane McWilliams
Legislative Coordinator

Joan Higinbotham
Joan Higinbotham
President

Mc:H/rk



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550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

File

October 25, 1988

Wayne Erickson, Manager
Curriculum Service Section
Minnesota Department of Education
631 Capitol Square
550 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2273

Dear Mr. Erickson:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota strongly supports adoption of the Proposed Rule Governing Multicultural and Gender-Fair Curriculum. We believe that compliance with this rule will create programs and a climate for much needed inclusivity in the Minnesota public schools programs.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has worked during its entire history for equity in public services, including education. We have monitored the progress of the present rule for many years and believe the proposed rule contains needed components for creating change.

The establishment of a plan for creating an inclusive program as required in Subpart 1 is a reasonable and effective process. We support the specifications in Subpart 2 which will both fulfill the necessary elements in the plan and which will provide helpful structure to school boards as they draw up their plans. We believe the requirements in Subpart 3 will assure accountability to local citizens as well as to the state.

We commend the State Board of Education and Department of Education staff for drafting and proposing this measure.

Sincerely,

Joan Higinbotham
Joan Higinbotham
President

Jane B McWilliams
Jane B. McWilliams
Education Chair

H:M:m