


Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Rockville, Maryland

October 25, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools
From: Carol Plotsky, M.D., Chair 
Subject: Recommendations on Condom Use Demonstration Lesson and Video for Grade 10

I am pleased to inform you that the Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development has completed its review of the recommendations by staff of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) for a revised condom use demonstration lesson and video for Grade 10 and identified several important changes for your consideration. The committee engaged in a thoughtful and rigorous review and discussion of the purpose and content of the revised lesson and video, and we received detailed briefings by MCPS staff. The committee met four times, beginning August 30, 2006, and completed its review of this portion of the revised curriculum on October 4, 2006.

The committee's proposed changes reflect its support for this important lesson, and the proposals, while numerous, do not alter substantially the message and information provided in this curriculum. The proposed changes are intended to improve the lesson in terms of content and presentation, particularly the video. The attached list of proposed changes reflects actions taken by the committee in public sessions, as described in action minutes that were subsequently approved by the committee. We recommend that the new lesson and video be revised and presented to the Board of Education with the committee's proposed changes.

At this time, the committee is proceeding with its review of staff recommended revisions to the curriculum on family life and human sexuality for Grade 8. Our review of this curriculum began on October 11, 2006. We anticipate completing our review of the Grade 8 revisions, and the revisions proposed for Grade 10, in time for your consideration in preparing recommendations to the Board of Education.

We wish to offer our appreciation to MCPS staff for their excellent work on these important curriculum revisions and, especially, for their support for the work of our committee.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

CP/

Attachment

Copy to:

Members of the Citizens Advisory Committee on
Family Life and Human Development
Dr. Lacey
Ms. Leleck
Mr. B. Porter
Ms. Brown
Ms. Webb

**Proposed Changes for the Staff Recommended
Condom Use Demonstration Lesson and Video, Grade 10¹**

Condom Use Demonstration Lesson

- On Page 2, under “Addressed Indicator/Objectives,” add “hepatitis” to HIV/AIDS, STIs (Passed) Y-11, N-0, A-0
- On Page 2, include the following definition of abstinence: “Abstinence is defined as the avoidance of voluntary intimate sexual contact (oral, anal, genital, or intimate skin-to-skin). The following activities are NOT consistent with true abstinence:
 - Oral sex is often called a ‘safe’ sexual practice. However, all sexually transmitted diseases can be transmitted this way.
 - Anal sex is a sexual activity that many believe they can engage in without causing pregnancy. However, this is one of the easiest ways of spreading STDs.
 - Intimate skin-to-skin contact, through activities such as mutual masturbation, can spread disease.”

(Passed) Y-9, N-1, A-1

- On Page 2, in “Enduring Understanding,” change text to “Individuals who engage in sexual activity are responsible for protecting themselves” (Passed) Y-11, N-0, A-0
- On Page 2, in the section on Enduring Understanding, include reference to “condom use.” (Passed) Y-8, N-2, A-1
- On Page 3, in second paragraph at top of page, replace sentence beginning “Today we will continue that discussion...” to “Today we will continue that discussion as we learn how to use condoms correctly. Abstinence is the most responsible and the only 100% effective way to prevent unwanted pregnancy and STI/STD transmission. Correct condom use provides significant protection from STI/STD transmission.” (Passed) Y-10, N-0, A-1
- On Page 3, under section 4, Research, add “strongly recommended” to the sentence “To help you understand why using a condom is recommended...” (Passed) Y-11, N-0, A-0

¹ Proposed changes include those that were approved by the committee in public sessions, beginning August 30 through October 4, 2006. The proposed changes are presented here, with committee votes, as subsequently described in action minutes and approved by the committee. The committee endorsed the lesson and video, with these proposed changes, for recommendation to the Board of Education.

- On Page 4, in section 6, replace sentence beginning “When used incorrectly...” with “Using a condom correctly greatly increases the chances that it will be effective in preventing pregnancy and many STI/STD’s.” (Passed) Y-8, N-0, A-3
- On Page 4, in section 10, Checking for Understanding, eliminate the sentence “If time is an issue...” and change end of section to: “Students are to fill out their paper and submit it to you before leaving the classroom. Pose the following questions for discussion: [insert “a.” and “b.” from Extension section]” and eliminate section 11, Extension. (Passed) Y-10, N-1, A-0
- On Page 5, in questions 4 and 5, rewrite text for clarity and represent percentages on a yearly basis. (Passed) Y-10, N-0, A-1
- On Page 5, in question 7, add “and responsible” after “...most effective...” (Passed) Y-11, N-0, A-0
- On Page 5, under section on Pre-Assessment, change questions to make them more general and in everyday language and review questions 4 and 5. (Passed) Y-8, N-1, A-2
- On Page 6, in question 3, eliminate the word “two.” (Passed) Y-11, N-0, A-0
- On Page 6, in the boxed section beginning with “Trends in. . .,” expand explanation to include human costs of disease and not simply economic costs. (Passed) Y-9, N-1 A-1
- On Page 10, change question 2 from “What is the first thing...” to “What are the first things. . .” (Passed) Y-11, N-0, A-0
- On Page 11, review questions 4 and 8 in terms of correct use of sequencing responses for these topics. (Passed) Y-6, N-1, A-1
- On Page 11, revise question 6 to add “at one time” as in: “How many condoms should be used at one time?” (Passed) Y-10, N-0, A-0
- Review percentages throughout the lessons for consistency. (Passed by consensus)
- On Page 13, in the Student Resource Sheet, add a new second bullet: “Any use of condoms for other than vaginal intercourse can increase the potential damage to the condom.” (Passed) Y-6, N-3, A-1
- On Page 13, change the language in bullet 4 to: “Condoms are 85 percent effective for preventing pregnancy with typical use, and 98 percent effective with correct and consistent use.” (Passed) Y-8, N-0, A-2
- On Page 1, verify reference citation for bullet 4 (Passed by consensus).
- On Page 13, in the statement of Enduring Understanding, add wording consistent with the following text: “having a discussion with your partner about his/her HIV or other health

status and about being tested for STIs before one decides to engage in sexual activity.”
(Passed) Y-8, N-2, A-0

- On Page 13, change the text of bullet 5 to: “Condom use decreased the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission.” (Passed) Y-7, N-2, A-1
- On Page 13, in bullet 2, replace “genital” with “vaginal”. (Passed) Y-8, N-1, A-1
- On Page 13, add the following text to the beginning of bullet 6: “Some individuals are allergic to latex.” (Passed) Y-9, N-0, A-1
- On Page 13, in bullet 9, omit the word “but” (Passed) Y-9, N-0, A-1
- On Page 13, in bullet 10, change “latex” to “condom” (Passed) Y-10, N-0, A-0
- On Page 14, in bullet 11, add text suggesting: intercourse be stopped immediately if condom is broken and continue only with new condom (Passed) Y-10, N-0, A-0
- On Page 14, in bullet 12, substitute “uncircumcised” for “noncircumcised” (Passed) Y-9, N-0, A-1
- On Page 14, a new bullet was proposed: “Finally, beware of drugs and alcohol! They can affect your judgment, so you may forget to use a condom. They may even affect your ability to use a condom properly.” (Passed) Y-9, N-0, A-1
- On Page 16, in the response to question 1, replace “germs” with “transmission of bacteria and viruses” (Passed) Y-10, N-0, A-0
- On Page 16, in the response to question 2, add a reference to “polyurethane” in order to be consistent throughout the lesson. (Passed) Y-7, N-0, A-3
- On Page 17, use percentages consistently in statements 4 and 5 (Passed by consensus)
- On Page 20, in question 4, replace “best” to “surest” (Passed) Y-9, N-0, A-1
- On Page 23, provide more information in the response to question 9. (Passed) Y-9, N-0, A-1
- Throughout, where appropriate, use web site links and exact citations. (Passed) Y-9, N-1, A-0
- On Page 7, in the paragraph titled “Male Latex Condoms...” change the text to: “In June 2000 the NIH and other federal agencies sponsored a workshop to answer the question: ‘What is the scientific evidence on the effectiveness of latex male condom use to prevent STD transmission during vaginal intercourse?’” (Passed) Y-7, N-0, A-3

Condom Use Demonstration Video

- Motion to include both a male and female voice. (Passed) Y-9, N-3, A-1
- Motion to add a visual shot of an actual condom, clearly showing expiration date and the word “latex”. Motion was unanimously amended (Y-13, N-0) to add “and then show the proper opening of the condom using the hands and stating “use your hands not your teeth or scissors” (Passed) Y-13, N-0
- Motion to add approximately one minute of additional information during the video, at the discretion of MCPS, and to reduce the amount of repetition if needed to conserve time. (Passed) Y-9, N-3, A-1
- Motion to include information from Student Resource Sheet, point 6 through point 13, plus point 14 (condom should be discarded if unrolled incorrectly on the penis, and a new one must be used.) (Passed) Y-10, N-3, A-0
- Motion to change the language “any sexual contact” to “oral, anal, or vaginal contact”. (Passed) Y-9, N-3, A-0
- Motion to add “100% effective” to abstinence message. (Abstinence is the only 100% effective way to avoid unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.” (Passed) Y-11, N-0, A-1
- Motion to remove the term “reservoir” and use the term “tip.” (Passed) Y-7, N-1, A-4
- Motion to change “doctor” to “health care provider”. (Passed) Y-9, N-3, A-0