

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP

R-51-2022

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A PARENTS'
BILL OF RIGHTS CONCERNING THE PROTECTION AND
EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN THE TOWNSHIP OF
SANDYSTON**

WHEREAS, legislation has been enacted by the New Jersey Legislature and signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy, the effect of which is to teach sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula to children in New Jersey and, particularly, in Sandyston Township, as early as grades K-2; and

WHEREAS, recent guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Education (the 'Department of Education') and the associated sample curricula regarding same is disturbing and concerning to the parents and residents of Sandyston Township and throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Township Committee members have been contacted by residents regarding this sensitive issue; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education's guidelines were promulgated, and the legislation passed and signed into law in 2020 and 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when New Jersey residents were sheltering in place, preoccupied with the pandemic, and there was not sufficient time or opportunity for public comment; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing, Sandyston Township parents specifically, and New Jersey parents generally, did not have any input into creating the sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula that will be taught to Sandyston Township children under the legislation and guidelines; and

WHEREAS, it is the overwhelming opinion of this governing body that the decision to teach sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula to children in grades K-2 is best left to the sound discretion of those children's parents, local communities, and local districts; and

WHEREAS, it is the overwhelming opinion of this governing body that Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey State Legislature have no business regulating, legislating, directing, or dictating matters that are, and should be, decided solely and exclusively by parents in said parents' best judgment as to health, safety, and welfare of their children; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston call on Governor Murphy, the New Jersey Legislature, and the Department of Education to return such decisions to local School Boards regarding such sexually specific and highly sensitive curricula for our children; and

WHEREAS, as a show of support for Sandyston Township families, the Township Committee of the Township of Sandyston also desire to work with Township parents, community leaders, and professionals to develop the framework for a Parents' Bill of Rights to use as a model for local schools that will, among other things, protect our children, notify our parents of the curricula being taught in our schools, and allow parents to make their own informed decisions regarding their children's education and exposure to sensitive information; and