

# DIVERSITY

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"It appeared to me that the SHAC had been what I would call 'Delphic,'" she said. "What if, in the interest of diversity, a child states that his faith tells him that homosexuality is wrong? Does the SHAC plan to open the door for a gay pride day to celebrate diversity?"

Gerstenschlager also mentioned her opposition to promoting an understanding of Islam, asking if the schools would also teach about what she called "rising murder rates in Turkey since the Islamists took over" and crimes against women that she wouldn't talk about out loud, "because there are young children in the room."

## Board Reaction

Most board members also had issues with the plan, but for their own reasons. Trustee Forrest Collins raised the first questions, asking what the plan would look like at the campus level.

"It's scary for me to not know what we are going to do," he said. "I don't want to make a quick decision on this."

Trustee Jennifer Loftin took it a step further, questioning whether or not celebrating differences was considered the "Aledo Way."

"We talk about the Aledo Way and how as people come in, we'd like them to be part of the Aledo Way," she said. "And the wording in here is we're celebrating diversity. So tell me about that discussion."

"What does celebrating diversity, which to me would be the non-Aledo way, mean vs. welcoming people in and saying, you're now part of Aledo ISD, here's the Aledo way?"

Kessel responded with an explanation of his definition.

"I don't know if it's published anywhere what the Aledo way is, but my interpretation of the Aledo way is that you act above the line. You make choices that are above the line to do what is right, and treat others with respect and dignity."

Allen came to the defense of the plan, mentioning that many of core principles were already being taught in Aledo ISD and were contained in programs already in place. She, Kessel, and trustee Bobby Rigues pointed out that the competencies overlap with the state mandated

essential knowledge and skills.

"I get the sense that people think we are going to go out and get some program and push it in," Allen said. "That's not the case."

Trustee David Tillman was uncomfortable with the plan.

"There's a difference between saying 'I accept you' and saying, 'your behavior and your belief system is acceptable to me,'" he said. "A lot of these go to that second point and not the first point."

"At some point, we have to say, this is right for me or this is wrong for me. My concern is how is it in the classroom? Is it to be tolerant of, to accept, or is it to accept their behavior, their belief system as my own? That's where I have a problem."

Kessel said the acceptance of another's beliefs as their own was never discussed.

"At no time was it ever discussed with the group nor the intention of the plan to make it a 'we're all going to have common values' plan," he said.

Collins said he was concerned about putting the burden of the nuts and bolts implementation on teachers at the classroom level.

"If we do have these kinds of things going on, they need to be punished," he said. "Kids need to know that there's consequences for this kind of behavior. The sad truth is, it's learned behavior. They learn it from somewhere."

"As much as I love the work that's being done, and the conversation, I think the way you solve this problem is by conversations and interacting with people."

Trustee Bobby Rigues made a motion to approve the plan, but the motion died for lack of a second. The board left no clear direction to district staff on the next step - if any - for the plan.

Committee member Mioshi Johnson said that while she was frustrated, she was still willing to work.

"When we first met, we talked with (superintendent) Dr. City about getting out ahead of this as we grow," she said. "Of course the parents are concerned about what this means for their individual child. They should be, and we all are."

"I think we did the best we could, and we probably could have done some things differently, but I'm willing to keep looking for something that will work for everybody."

# GYMNASTICS

## Impact gymnasts place at regionals

Special to The Community News

Impact Athletic Training Center's levels 7 and 8 gymnastics teams recently competed at the 2017 regional championships where they brought home one gold, four silver, and one bronze medal. Gymnasts must be top scorers in their state to advance to regionals where they compete against gymnasts from Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

Results from the Level 7 USAG Regional Championships held April 13-15 in Albuquerque, New Mexico:

- Cate Cooper (Fort Worth) - ninth on bars
- Grace Edwards (Aledo) - fifth on bars, second on vault
- Karly Laughley (Aledo) - second on vault, fifth on bars, sixth on floor, and fifth all-around
- Lauren Smith (Weatherford) - fifth on floor and ninth on bars
- Addie Uselman (Aledo) - first



SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Impact Athletic gymnasts who participated at regions are (from left) Lauren Smith, Karly Laughley, Cate Cooper, Brooklynn Clapp, Addie Uselman and Grace Edwards.

on floor, fourth on vault, fifth on bars, ninth on beam, and second all-around

The Level 8 USAG Regional Championships were held April

21-23 in Estes Park, Colorado where Brooklynn Clapp placed third on floor, fifth on beam, sixth on bars, and second all-around.

# AISD

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In other action, the positions for two new curriculum specialists were approved: English/Language Arts and Reading Specialist Staci Hammer, who comes from Birdville ISD, and Social Studies Specialist Leslee Barnes, who comes from Weatherford ISD. Both specialists will join the district July 1.

Jay Stringer was re-elected as the president of the board of trustees, and Hoyt Harris was elected vice president. Jennifer Loftin was named secretary.

City brought forth a suggestion to the board to create an attendance zone policy for future district expansion as Aledo ISD builds more schools.

"If we have a policy with prerequisite pieces of the board's wishes, it will help streamline the process," City told trustees.

Trustees approved the idea and asked City to begin looking at other district policies.

"I think having this in place ahead of time might take some of the emotion out of it," Loftin said.



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

New Aledo ISD Trustee Julie Turner, left, was sworn in by board secretary Donna Roe at the start of the May 15 meeting.



ROSEALEE HOFFMAN/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Students from the Daniel Ninth Grade Center gave a demonstration to the school board about their hydroponic gardening techniques.

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