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Public school board sets sex ed policy

By MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Public school teachers shall not discuss abortion in class without providing information on parenting and adoption, new sex education guidelines for the board say.

And even guest speakers will not be allowed to "advocate personal points of view" on touchy subjects like sexual orientation and abortion.

But students, as long as they show respect for each other, will finally be able to discuss these

issues. Current board policy says they can't, even in a high school, because the issues "defy unbiased presentation."

The board, spurred by provincial rules against discrimination, has overhauled its approach. Training for principals and selected teachers — who will train all others — in the new guidelines begins next month, and the board is printing a new resource book for teachers, Sensitive Issues in the Classroom.

"I think it's an excellent improvement. I think we're going to give a lot of support to students who

need it," Sharon Craigen, the board's curriculum superintendent.

But the guidelines, because some parents opposed the changes, have been revised three times in a single year. Working for the final version was eventually changed to satisfy an advisory committee which included such parents.

A statement, which began the section on abortion in early drafts, that the procedure is a "legal choice which is available to women in Canada" has been removed.

In its place is a requirement for "factual information on all pregnancy options," including parenting and adoption, to be provided when the subject comes up.

Man saved from oncoming train

(From page 1)

There's no if ands or buts. They only had three-feet to spare when the train came. I thought: the kids will see this and a fellow driver is about to die. It was awful. Guy did a wonderful thing."

When Castonguay got to his feet, his attention turned to the children. "The kids were cheering from the bus. The other man said he'd take care of the elderly man. I had to get back to my bus. I sat for a bit. I was quite shaken" said Castonguay.

Joan Down, operations manager of Stock Transportation, said the company is "very very proud" of Castonguay. "He's a very caring man."

To recognize Castonguay for his bravery, Down presented Castonguay with the Extra Mile Club pin. "Guy certainly deserves it," said Down.

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