

Good evening.

Choice is about having facts and evidence by which to make good decisions. Board Policy 1321, Board Meeting Preparation says, **“adequate data and back-up information shall be provided to assist the Board in reaching sound and objective decisions consistent with established goals.”**

I took the time to read the US Department of Education review, “Single-Sex Versus Coeducational Schooling: A Systematic Review,” used last September as evidence to persuade the Board to move forward with two grades 6-12 single-sex leadership academies.

From that review: “The objective of this review is to document the outcome evidence for or against the efficacy of single-sex education as an alternative form of school organization.”

According to the work session presentations on the academies, Mr. Tata, you indicated the study revealed:

- favorable results for single gender schools
- higher student achievement in all subject areas
- that students were reported as setting broader career aspirations
- and were more likely to be “enrolled in high levels of math and science classes”

However according to the actual review, the results were **“equivocal,”** the results of the research studied was **inconclusive. And that** “There is limited support for the view that single-sex schooling may be harmful or that coeducational schooling is more beneficial for students.”

The report goes on to say, “A paucity of research on single-sex schooling, especially for males, was an ongoing concern, as was the lack of public-school studies in the United States,”

“The overwhelming majority of studies employed high school students...not a single study in the quantitative review reported findings from a sample of middle school students”—and our academies will serve middle school students.

The study concludes that long-term, quantifiable academic accomplishment is an under researched outcome of single-sex schooling and that “It is evident that studies comparing students from elementary and middle public schools are needed.”

So, how did this 2005 review of existing research on single-sex vs. coeducational schooling become your justification for moving forward with single-sex academies? Why was the Board led to believe that the facts you presented **accurately reflected** the conclusions of the US Department of Education?

I am deeply concerned by the inaccurate data used to justify these schools. I am deeply concerned for the parents who have applied for their children to attend the single-sex academies. I'm deeply concerned that we don't even know where these academies will be located, what the curriculum will look like, how much additional funding is required for ROTC and other programs.

How can parents, and how can the School Board make "sound and objective decisions" when they are told something other than the truth?

552 applications for the women's academy; 277 applications for the boy's academy