



Board of Directors

Chair

Joe Toolan
(he/him)

Vice-Chair

Tim Williams
(he/him)

Treasurer

Katie Connolly
(they/them)

Secretary

Anne Gotimer
(she/her)

External Affairs Chair

Jeremy Browning
(he/him)

Leslie Anderson
(they/them)

Brandon Bratcher
(he/him)

Christopher Broadwell
(he/him)

Jasmin Carey
(she/they)

Christine Feldmann
(she/her)

Chris Haley
(he/him)

Jenny Llamas
(she/her)

Eric Lund
(he/him)

Jazzmyn Proctor
(she/they)

Isabella Shycoff
(she/her)

February 16, 2022

SB 364 - Anne Arundel County - Board of Education - Parent's Right to Challenge Curriculum Act

Position: Oppose

We, the board of directors of Annapolis Pride, strongly oppose SB 364.

SB 364 applies only to Anne Arundel public schools, and establishes a method of petition to question and potentially overturn curriculum already determined appropriate by expert educators and approved by members of the county's elected with the Board of Education members.

We oppose this legislation, as we believe it is redundant and creates undue administrative burdens for our educators. Concerned citizens have ample means to communicate their issues with the board, through regular board and committee meetings, and directly with the individual members of the board.

Disguised as allowing for "parental involvement," We believe this bill is only meant to fan the flames of ignorance and intolerance among certain factions within the Anne Arundel County AA Co community.

We continue to see growing examples of hate and intolerance in our schools, and believe that teachers, administrators and the BOE officials are serving in increasingly challenging and divisive times. They deserve the community's support to make the school setting a safe, inclusive and productive learning environment.

We must trust our educators to make determinations on curriculum based on their professional expertise. They must not have their hands tied due to a few loud voices of some small-minded parents. Teachers and administrators are the experts in education and we must give them the latitude to make decisions based on what's best for their students. Either we trust them or we don't.

We strongly urge an unfavorable report on SB 364.