

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Charleston County School Board Member Ed Kelley **Issues Statement**

Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina – Monday April 3, 2023 – One of the reasons I ran for Charleston County School Board is I felt, like many parents, that our voices were not being heard regarding what is in the best interest of our children and the curriculum that is being taught in our schools. I support parents' choice, that students come first, and we must support those teachers who want all our students to succeed.

I had a parent reach out to me to express his concerns after his 4th grade child returned home from school distraught, in tears, totally confused and upset when their female teacher said to all the students 'Today I am a Miss, but tomorrow I will be a Mr.', and that she started having the thoughts that she was a boy starting in 2nd grade. Subsequently, I was informed this same teacher had a similar conversation with her 5th grade students as well.

Let me be perfectly clear, this is totally wrong on a variety of levels. It is not within a teacher's unilateral discretion to make statements about personal sexual choices to children without consulting school officials including the Superintendent & Principal (who in turn have a moral imperative to engage with parents). In my opinion, this teacher demonstrated poor judgement with no consideration of the emotional impact or confusion forced upon these young, impressionable children. This teacher should have talked with school and district administrators, healthcare professionals and other properly trained experts before dropping something so sensitive and confusing on such young children.

During a recent meeting hosted by the group 'Moms for Liberty' this issue was brought up and discussed. My comments during that meeting have falsely been presented to the media by a single voice, contrary to the statements of many others present, yet the media have chosen to write on this subject matter. What I actually said was, "Given how understandably agitated he was, I applaud this father for making the right choice to write an email instead of pick up a gun." He expressed his concerns about this subject matter being discussed in a 4th grade class and how inappropriate such a conversation is in the classroom. I fully agree with this father, who's child was robbed of their innocence by someone they should have been able to trust. All students and educators must have a safe and stable learning environment.

I will always stand up for our student's right to be kids and a parent's right to parent. I will always support those teachers who work very hard everyday, teaching our children, for the benefit of our kids. I agree with those who say what this teacher did was disruptive & destabilizing to the learning process and negatively impacted young children.

I will continue to serve and defend parents, students, and those teachers who truly have our students' best interests at heart.

Matthew 19:14

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