

Testimony of Erin Crapser for HB 2222, “Loren’s Law”

Feb. 12, 2013

“Children Learn What They Live”

“If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn....

If a child lives with Hostility, he learns to fight...

If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive....

If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself...

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy...

If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilt....

BUT

IF a child lives with tolerance he learns to be patient...

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident...

If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love...

If a child lives with honesty, he learns what truth is...

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice...

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and those about him...

If a child lives with friendliness, he learns the world is a nice place in which to live...

With what is YOUR child living?”

By Dorothy L Law

Published in the Torrance Unified School District Schools Board of Education newsletter, Torrance, CA 1959

My name is Erin Crapser and I work in the Kansas City area as a Special Education Advocate and Developmental Disability Case Manager with school aged individuals. I have been alarmed by the conduct of some school staff as I have worked in this capacity. Hearing of remarks to students such as, “For God’s sake are you stupid? I have explained that to you four times?” and “Your problem is you are lazy and careless.” The victim of these comments was a fifth grader with a learning disability, medical problems, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, all of which the teacher was aware.

Parents and students complain repeatedly, but administrators are paralyzed by a system that allows them to do very little to reprimand such conduct. It does not violate any policy that is addressed by school board codes of conduct for staff, which only address sexual relationships with students. So the complaints pile up, the children internalize, fear, or fight and disrespect, staff. Creating a hostile learning environment for the students and is a breeding ground for bullies of all kinds as that is the subject these staff are really teaching, ‘Bullying 101: A How to Guide for the Bully in Training’. Staff threshold for bullying behavior becomes lower and lower until these staff can actually cross the line into emotional and physical abuse.

We have great teachers and support staff in our Kansas schools as well, don’t let these bad apples bring them down, support HB2222 protect our children and help us teach our future leaders to be patient, confident, to love, to seek truth and justice, to have faith and make the world a better place to live. It was true in 1959 and it is still true today.

Erin Crapser
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