

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CARMILLA TATEL, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MT. LEBANON SCHOOL DISTRICT, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.: 2:22-cv-00837

Hon. Joy Flowers Conti

**DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY
OF ASTA KILL**

I, Asta Kill (she/her), being of sound mind and over the age 18, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I live in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania and have a middle school age child who is enrolled in the Mt. Lebanon School District.
2. I identify as a woman first, though I was assigned male at birth. I use she/her pronouns. I also identify as transgender. I am proud to be able to live as the most authentic version of myself. The fact that I can be open and free allows me to experience myself fully.
3. I am very fortunate that my kiddo is naturally inclusive and has had a strong sense of his own gender identity as early as kindergarten.
4. Unsurprisingly, the issue of gender identity has come up throughout his education.

5. It is important to me that my kiddo's peers see me and be around me so that they can better understand gender diversity. Starting in elementary school, I would often pick up my kiddo from school. I waited outside with other parents and as all the other students came out they saw me as the parent of one of their classmates. I showed up at school concerts and school events. I would take my kiddo to birthday parties and to extracurricular activities on school grounds that included many of his elementary school classmates. The more his peers were aware of and exposed to gender diversity, the more I felt confident my kiddo would be safe at school.
6. In early elementary school, many students noticed that my gender identity was not exactly the same as many of the other parents. One question I got from my kiddo's classmates early on was "Are you a boy or a girl?" I usually said that I am a girl but was born with a boy body. That was all it took most of the time for them to happily continue on their day and never ask that question again.
7. At that young age, many of his friends also didn't know whether to call me "Ms." Or "Mr." Kill. They got very inventive early on, finding wonderful ways to respectfully address me. They would say for example "[MY CHILD'S NAME]'s parent, may I have something to drink?"

8. While I think these students learned a lot through these small interactions, I wish that this learning was reinforced inside the classroom as well. The school curriculum, and representation of diverse gender identities and family structures, in particular, have been a challenge for us. I remember a grammar test in elementary school where students were asked to complete the pronouns. The sentence read something like “my dad is great. ____ takes me to the park”. My kiddo used “she” pronouns and the teacher deducted points. This is one of many examples I could give to show how outdated curricula no longer reflect reality and how my kiddo was punished and singled out as a result of the District’s outdated practice and inaccurate prejudices.
9. Unfortunately, I have also encountered parents who hold some of the same outdated and inaccurate prejudices. I have seen an occasional parent make a face or gesture indicating the parent’s utter disapproval of my existence and of my presence on school grounds. I know of a few parents who would not allow their children to join my kiddo for a play date or invite my kiddo to their child’s birthday party because of my gender identity. Even though my kiddo identifies as cisgender and heterosexual, he was still impacted indirectly by the ignorance of some parents, and the trickle-down effect that ignorance had on their children.

10. In many ways I am fortunate as my job is to educate community members on LGBTQ+ inclusion, and I have the skills and the background to educate many parents and teachers.

11. Over the years, I have seen many kids feel empowered by witnessing the way I defy traditional gender roles. I believe that seeing LGBTQ+ representation in the community and in the school curriculum is a powerful tool to affirm children whose gender identities don't align with societal expectations.

12. I am comforted by the Mt. Lebanon School District's commitment to teaching an inclusive curriculum that represents LGBTQ+ people, as it creates the foundation for a safe environment for my kiddo when he walks out my door on his way to school.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 2/11/2024, in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Signature:  Asta Kill Date: 2/11/2024
DocuSigned by: Asta Kill ID: ED32AF18C841C...