

DRAFT STATEMENT

We, the Worthington Board of Education, are unified in opposition to State Board of Education member, Brendan Shea's initial and revised resolution entitled, "Resolution to Support Parents, Schools, and Districts in Rejecting Harmful, Coercive, and Burdensome Gender Identity Policies." Shea's resolution is in response to, and opposition of, the U.S. Department of Education's proposed changes to Title IX Regulations.

Shea's proposed resolution includes false scientific assertions, repeats harmful stereotypes, and attempts to require our district to discriminate against and endanger our LGBTQ+ students. This type of resolution is morally reprehensible, politically charged, and targets a particularly at-risk portion of our student population.

From our board policy, to our district mission and vision, to day-to-day interactions with students, as a school district we collectively and intentionally strive to create environments where ALL students are safe, can learn with dignity, respect, free from fear and violence, and protected against discrimination, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity/expression or sexual orientation. Worthington is a school district that is deeply committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, to creating a culture of acceptance, and that celebrates and empowers difference. We want every student to know that we "see" them and we "value" them.

We join neighboring boards of education in imploring our state board to vote down this resolution and others like, which attempt to strip us from our local control and would endanger our students. We appreciate the state board education remaining members' statement against this type of politically charged, divisive action.