

Kutz & Bethke LLC

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Kristin A. Kutz  
William P. Bethke

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December 6, 2010

RECEIVED  
DEC 8 - 2010

VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL

Rebecca T. Wallace ([rtwallace@aclu-co.org](mailto:rtwallace@aclu-co.org))

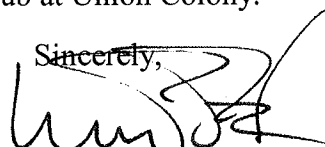
ACLU of Colorado  
400 Corona Street  
Denver, CO 80218-3915

Dear Ms. Wallace:

I have been asked to respond to your letter to Union Colony Schools of December 1, written on behalf of Steve Marcantonio and others. First, Mr. Marcantonio has never reported concerns to Union Colony administration about experiencing harassment or bullying related to sexual preference or other reasons. When asked, he stated that he had not experienced harassment or bullying at Union Colony. There had been occasional comments made that were offensive. These were dealt with by staff to what Mr. Marcantonio expressed to be his complete satisfaction. Union Colony does not tolerate harassment in any form, and has not and will not tolerate harassment of LGBT students.

Second, there is no animosity to the concept of a Gay/Straight Alliance or to LGBT students on the part of either the Union Colony Faculty Council or Governing Board. There is a desire to maintain a focus on academics and community service and to avoid a proliferation of non-curricular clubs. The only three activities arguably falling within this category are the Student Council (which, with respect, is co-curricular), the Key Club and the Honor Society. There are no Chess Clubs, Ski Clubs, etc., precisely because Union Colony has not been receptive to an active extra-curricular "club" environment — for any purpose. References to the "culture" of Union Colony should be understood as reflecting the belief that most high schools have far too many clubs and similar distractions that, taken together, dilute needed academics.

Third, as much as Union Colony would like to avoid a proliferation of student clubs, it recognizes that the Key Club has likely opened that door. On Friday, December 3 the Faculty Council drafted policies to permit student-initiated clubs. These policies will be recommended to the Governing Board at their next scheduled meeting. The Board will meet on December 18, 2010, and we fully expect it will adopt a policy for student groups. Assuming the policies are approved at that time, Mr. Marcantonio would be more than welcome to be the very first student making use of these policies to form a student-initiated club at Union Colony.

Sincerely,  
  
William P. Bethke

cc (via email): Pat Gilliam