

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

.....
TAMMY KITZMILLER; et al., .

Plaintiffs .

CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-CV-2688

vs. .

DOVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, .
et al., .

(JUDGE JONES)

Defendants .
.....

Deposition of : CHARLOTTE BUCKINGHAM

Taken by : Plaintiffs

Date : April 15, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

Before : Vicki L. Fox, RMR,
Reporter-Notary

Place : 200 One Keystone Plaza
North Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

APPEARANCES:

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES FOUNDATION OF PA

BY: PAULA K. KNUDSEN, ESQUIRE

For - Plaintiffs

THOMAS MORE LAW CENTER

BY: PATRICK T. GILLEN, ESQUIRE

For - Defendants

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I N D E X

WITNESS

CHARLOTTE BUCKINGHAM

Examination

By Mr. Gillen

3

EXHIBITS

Plaintiffs Exhibits

Page

51. Three page newspaper article "Book is Focus of More Debate" by Joseph Maldonado, In the Tuesday, June 15, 2004 *York Daily Record*.

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1 STIPULATION

2 It is hereby stipulated by and between the
3 respective parties that sealing, certification and
4 filing are waived; and that all objections except as
5 to the form of the question are reserved until the time
6 of trial.

7 CHARLOTTE BUCKINGHAM, called as a witness, being
8 duly sworn, was examined and testified, as follows:

9 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

10 Q. Good morning, Mrs. Buckingham.

11 A. Good morning. My name is Paula Knudsen, and I am one of
12 the attorneys for the plaintiffs in the litigation that
13 is currently pending.

14 Before we begin, I just want to go over some of
15 the basics. First of all, could you state your name for
16 the record, please?

17 A. Charlotte Anne Buckingham.

18 Q. How would you prefer that I address you today?

19 A. Charlotte.

20 Q. Charlotte, have you ever been deposed before?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. When would that have been?

23 A. It would have been in November of 2003.

24 Q. What type of litigation was that? Was it a civil case,
25 a criminal case?

- 1 A. It was a civil case.
- 2 Q. Were you a witness or were you a party in that action?
- 3 A. I was a party.
- 4 Q. A plaintiff or a defendant?
- 5 A. Defendant. No, plaintiff.
- 6 Q. The plaintiff is the person who is suing somebody else.
- 7 A. That's me.
- 8 Q. I don't want to get too far into that, but was that in
9 State or Federal Court?
- 10 A. It never actually went to court.
- 11 Q. So it settled?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Have you been over the procedure of deposition with your
14 attorney -- or with Mr. Gillen?
- 15 A. Yes, I have.
- 16 Q. So you understand that I will be asking you questions
17 today about matters related to the Dover Area School
18 Board?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And that you have been sworn, and you will tell the
21 truth in the matter before us today?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Charlotte, are you under the influence of any drugs or
24 alcohol today that would prevent you from testifying
25 truthfully and accurately?

1 A. No, I am not.

2 Q. Are there any health conditions that we need to be made
3 aware of that --

4 A. No.

5 Q. Just one other thing. Let me finish the question. That
6 way Vicki can take down the answer and the question
7 fully. And then along the same lines, you will need to
8 answer orally rather than nodding your head or shaking
9 your head because she needs to have an answer for the
10 record. Okay?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. All right. And then finally, if you need a break at
13 all, just please let us know. Or if you would like to
14 talk to Mr. Gillen at any time, just let me know.

15 Or if there are any questions that you feel
16 uncomfortable with answering, let me know. Mr. Gillen
17 and I can talk about it off the record as we have done
18 in some of the other depositions.

19 Do you have any questions about what we have just
20 gone over?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So then I can anticipate that you have both heard and
23 understood my question, and that you will answer it
24 truthfully?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So we know your name. And let me get your address also
2 for the record?

3 A. 3350 Sycamore Road, Dover, Pennsylvania.

4 Q. With whom do you live?

5 A. My husband Bill.

6 Q. Do you have any children?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what are the ages of those children?

9 A. I have twin sons who are 39, and my daughter is 37.

10 Q. And did any of those children attend the Dover Area
11 School District?

12 A. Yes, they did.

13 Q. All three of them?

14 A. All three of them.

15 Q. Do your children live in the Dover Area School District?

16 A. No, they do not.

17 Q. Now you mentioned your husband William Buckingham. How
18 long have you been married to Mr. Buckingham?

19 A. Forty years.

20 Q. How long have you and Mr. Buckingham lived in the Dover
21 Area School District?

22 A. Since 1977.

23 Q. Have you ever served on the Dover Area School District
24 Board of Directors?

25 A. No, I haven't.

- 1 Q. Have you ever run for the Dover Area School District
2 Board of Directors?
- 3 A. No, I haven't.
- 4 Q. And is your husband Mr. Buckingham currently on the
5 Dover Area School District Board of Directors?
- 6 A. Yes, he is.
- 7 Q. Do you know when he began serving?
- 8 A. It was approximately in the fall of 2002. I don't
9 remember the date.
- 10 Q. That's fine. Had your husband served on the Dover Area
11 School District prior to that time?
- 12 A. No, he had not.
- 13 Q. Do you know during the course of your discussions with
14 your husband why he decided to run for the Dover Area
15 School District Board of Directors?
- 16 A. Because he felt like he could contribute to the
17 community by serving.
- 18 Q. At that time, was your husband retired?
- 19 A. Yes, he was.
- 20 Q. He is still retired?
- 21 A. Yes, he is.
- 22 Q. What is your employment status?
- 23 A. I am a financial secretary at a church.
- 24 Q. Which church is that?
- 25 A. Harmony Grove Community Church in Dover.

- 1 Q. Is that a full or part-time position?
- 2 A. It is part-time.
- 3 Q. It is paid?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. How long have you served as the financial secretary at
- 6 Harmony Grove?
- 7 A. Since December of 2001.
- 8 Q. Prior to that, how were you employed?
- 9 A. I was a supervisor for York International.
- 10 Q. What did your duties include there?
- 11 A. I was the supervisor of the Order Entry Department.
- 12 Q. How long did you work there?
- 13 A. Twenty-nine years.
- 14 Q. Did you retire from that position?
- 15 A. Yes, I did.
- 16 Q. Let's just turn a little bit to your educational
- 17 background. Do you hold a high school degree?
- 18 A. Yes, I do.
- 19 Q. What high school?
- 20 A. William Penn Senior High School in York.
- 21 Q. Do you have any post high school education?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Have you ever taken any special classes specifically in
- 24 the area of science?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Were you finished?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Sorry. What types of science classes would you have had
4 at William Penn High School?
- 5 A. Biology.
- 6 Q. If you can remember.
- 7 A. I can't.
- 8 Q. But you think you had biology?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Since then, you haven't had any specific training in
11 science?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Turning back to your position at Harmony Grove, what
14 denomination is the Harmony Grove Church?
- 15 A. It is nondenominational.
- 16 Q. Is it a Christian church?
- 17 A. Yes, it is.
- 18 Q. How did you become involved in the position as part-time
19 financial secretary?
- 20 A. There was an opening there. The prior financial
21 secretary retired. And I applied for it and was
22 accepted.
- 23 Q. Is that the church that you attend?
- 24 A. Yes, it is.
- 25 Q. Does your husband attend as well?

1 A. Yes, he does.

2 Q. How long have you attended that church?

3 A. I have attended there since about 1998.

4 Q. Were you affiliated with another church prior to that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Which church was that?

7 A. St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Church in York.

8 Q. Is that a Catholic church?

9 A. Yes, it is.

10 Q. How long were you affiliated with St. Mary's?

11 A. More than twenty years.

12 Q. You said that you had attended Harmony Grove since 1998.

13 When did your husband start attending Harmony Grove?

14 A. He started going there about 1995.

15 Q. So he preceded you?

16 A. Yes, he did.

17 Q. Did he ever attend St. Mary's?

18 A. Yes, he did.

19 Q. Approximately the same time frame of twenty years?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Now I want to shift gears here and talk specifically

22 about some of the School Board meetings. You mentioned

23 that your husband began serving for the Dover Area

24 School District Board of Directors approximately in the

25 fall of 2002; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. At that time in the fall of 2002, did you begin
3 attending the School Board meetings?
- 4 A. No. I am sorry.
- 5 Q. That is okay. When if at all after your husband began
6 serving on the Board did you attend meetings?
- 7 A. It was a long time. I think the first meeting I
8 attended was I attended one at the time the pledge, the
9 conflict about the pledge, taking under God out of the
10 pledge came about.
- 11 Q. So prior to your husband's entry onto the Board, was it
12 your usual practice to attend School Board meetings?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Had you ever attended a School Board meeting?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. When your children were in Dover Area School District,
17 did you ever have occasion to attend a School Board
18 meeting?
- 19 A. You know what? I did attend a School Board meeting one
20 time, but my husband was not on the Board at that time.
- 21 Q. Was that when your children were in school or sometime
22 after?
- 23 A. No, it was some time after.
- 24 Q. Do you recall why you would have attended the meeting?
- 25 A. Yes. It was at that time that Jane Cleaver, who was

1 also not on the Board, at that time was trying to get
2 prayer back in school.

3 Q. Do you recall the time that that might have been? You
4 said that it was prior to your husband's service on the
5 Board?

6 A. Yes. I think it was in the spring. I don't remember
7 the time frame.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. It was in 2002.

10 Q. Okay. So it was in the spring before your husband -- of
11 the same year before your husband started serving on the
12 Board?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How did you find out about Mrs. Cleaver's attempts to
15 introduce prayer back into school?

16 A. Mrs. Cleaver came into the church where I was working,
17 and she wanted to talk to the Pastor. And she was a
18 very happy kind of person, and we just connected.

19 And we just started talking, and she became aware
20 that I have a gospel music ministry. And I gave her one
21 of my tapes. And after that, we just became friends.
22 And she went to my concerts.

23 Q. So you didn't know Mrs. Cleaver prior to the time that
24 she walked into the church office?

25 A. No, I didn't.

1 Q. So did she at some point ask you to come to the School
2 Board meeting to support her efforts to introduce prayer
3 into the school?

4 A. If I remember correctly, she mentioned that she was
5 going to be at that Board meeting, and there were
6 numerous people from our church who went in support of
7 her.

8 Q. Does Mrs. Cleaver attend your church?

9 A. No, she doesn't.

10 Q. Did you speak at that meeting?

11 A. No, I did not.

12 Q. Did you sign any petitions?

13 A. No, I did not.

14 Q. Do you know who did speak in favor of introducing prayer
15 into the school?

16 A. Mrs. Cleaver did.

17 Q. Do you recall if anyone spoke?

18 A. No.

19 Q. So you were there primarily just to show support through
20 your presence?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. So that was one meeting sometime in the spring of 2002.

23 You also mentioned a meeting that you an extended during
24 the conflict about the Pledge of Allegiance?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. When would that have been?

2 A. I can't remember the time.

3 Q. Was your husband serving on the Board at that time?

4 A. Yes, he was.

5 Q. So it was sometime after the fall of 2002?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Why did you choose to attend that meeting?

8 A. Just to be there in support. There were numerous people
9 from my church who also attended that meeting. We went
10 just in support of them.

11 Q. Now let me back up to the previous meeting we were
12 talking about. You also said that there were numerous
13 people from your church who attended? Is that a yes?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 A. Sorry.

17 Q. Was there a request made by your Pastor for people to
18 come and support, or how was it that so many people from
19 Harmony Grove were there in attendance?

20 A. There are a number of people from -- there was no
21 request by our Pastor, but a number of the people from
22 my church have children who are in the Dover School
23 District. So they attend meetings regardless of whether
24 there is anything special going on or not.

25 Q. With regard to the pledge situation, had your Pastor

1 mentioned that it would be a good idea to attend that
2 meeting, or do you think those people were just there?

3 A. I think they were just there. He did not specifically
4 make any request.

5 Q. And did you speak at the pledge meeting?

6 A. No, I did not.

7 Q. So you did not speak during the public comment period?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Did you speak to any reporters at that meeting or after
10 that meeting?

11 A. No, I did not.

12 Q. Do you recall who did speak with regard to the pledge
13 issue?

14 A. No, I do not.

15 Q. What is your understanding of what the conflict was
16 about the words under God in the pledge specifically at
17 Dover Area School District?

18 A. From what I understood, there was reports that someone
19 wanted to make a bill to take under God out of the
20 pledge.

21 Q. Would that have been a Pennsylvania bill, something in
22 the Pennsylvania Legislature?

23 A. I wasn't sure.

24 Q. From whom did you hear these reports?

25 A. Just talking among different people.

1 Q. Did you ever speak to your husband about this issue?

2 A. No.

3 Q. So your intent at that meeting was again just to have a
4 showing of support to keep the Pledge of Allegiance in
5 school?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And let me just make sure I have it straight. Did you
8 want to keep the Pledge of Allegiance in school, or did
9 you want to keep the Pledge of Allegiance with the words
10 under God in school?

11 A. I wanted to keep the words under God in the pledge in
12 school and everywhere.

13 Q. Was it your understanding about the proposed legislation
14 that it was attempting to remove only the words under
15 God but maintain the Pledge of Allegiance in school?

16 A. Yes, that was my understanding.

17 Q. So you did not speak at that meeting?

18 A. No, I did not.

19 Q. What meetings other than I will just call it the pledge
20 meeting and the prayer meeting did you attend?

21 A. I attended the meeting where there was controversy about
22 the proposal that Intelligent Design be introduced into
23 the biology curriculum.

24 Q. Do you know when that would have been?

25 A. It was in June of 2004.

1 Q. Was your husband serving on the Board at that time?

2 A. Yes, he was.

3 Q. Why did you decide to attend this meeting?

4 A. Because it was my desire to speak about what I felt
5 should be taught in school.

6 Q. And to the best of your recollection, would this have
7 been the first time that you spoke publicly at a Board
8 meeting?

9 A. Yes, it was.

10 Q. Including times in the past when your kids would have
11 been in school?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And did you in fact speak at that meeting?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. And did you have prepared remarks?

16 A. I had some notes.

17 Q. When did you speak specifically during the meeting?

18 A. When the floor was opened up for public comment.

19 Q. Were you the first speaker?

20 A. No, I wasn't.

21 Q. Do you recall who spoke before you?

22 A. No, I do not.

23 Q. Do you remember if the person would have been in favor
24 of Intelligent Design or not in favor of Intelligent
25 Design?

1 A. No, I don't remember.

2 Q. Okay. So did you have to raise your hand, or sign a
3 list, or how did you actually get to --

4 A. I raised my hand.

5 Q. Who recognized you?

6 A. The President of the Board.

7 Q. Who would that have been?

8 A. Alan Bonsell.

9 Q. Do you know Mr. Bonsell personally?

10 A. No, I do not.

11 Q. Apart from your husband, whom I assume you know
12 personally, do you know any of the other Board members
13 let's say currently.

14 A. No. Currently?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. One of the Board members Ron Short attends my church.

17 Q. What would you say your relationship with Mr. Short is,
18 just a fellow congregant?

19 A. Just a fellow congregant. There was really nothing
20 personal.

21 Q. At the June, 2004 meeting, did you know any of the Board
22 members personally apart from your husband?

23 A. Jane Cleaver.

24 Q. And I believe you previously identified her as a friend?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. At the time of June of 2004, how frequently would you
2 socialize with Mrs. Cleaver?
- 3 A. Rarely.
- 4 Q. If you did, what activities would you do?
- 5 A. She would attend a concert.
- 6 Q. Would you go and have lunch or tea or anything?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Does she have children in the Dover Area School District
9 if you know?
- 10 A. No, she doesn't even live here now.
- 11 Q. Do you still maintain contacts with Mrs. Cleaver?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. So you would have known Mrs. Cleaver personally and your
14 husband. Anyone else at the time of June of 2004?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. And you said Mr. Bonsell recognized you to speak?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. What did you do then?
- 19 A. I got up, and I stated who I was, and I spoke.
- 20 Q. Did you speak from a podium, or did you speak --
- 21 A. From a podium. Sorry.
- 22 Q. That is okay. Is that the typical podium that is used
23 for public comment?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. So you stated your name and --

- 1 A. Address.
- 2 Q. -- address. Did you mention your relationship with
3 Mr. Buckingham?
- 4 A. Yes, I did.
- 5 Q. What did you say?
- 6 A. I began my comments with due to the fact that my husband
7 is on the School Board, what I am about to say are my
8 thoughts and in no way have anything to do with him.
9 Something to that effect.
- 10 Q. Do you still have the notes that you used that evening?
- 11 A. No, I do not.
- 12 Q. Did you destroy them?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Did you destroy them just by throwing them in the
15 regular garbage?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. After you introduced yourself, said your address and
18 prefaced your remarks by saying these were your own
19 remarks, not to be affiliated with your husband, what
20 did you say then?
- 21 A. I basically told them that I felt that Creationism
22 should be taught in the schools.
- 23 Q. When you say them, who do you mean?
- 24 A. I spoke to the Board and the audience that was there.
- 25 Q. Were you primarily facing towards the Board, or did you

- 1 at times turn and look at the audience?
- 2 A. No. I was facing the Board.
- 3 Q. But you intended your remarks to be heard by both the
4 Board and the audience?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. When you say Creationism should be taught in schools,
7 what do you mean by that statement?
- 8 A. Creationism as explained in Genesis One in the Bible.
- 9 Q. And did you fortify your comments with quotations from
10 Genesis?
- 11 A. Yes, I did.
- 12 Q. If you recall, which parts of Genesis did you quote?
- 13 A. The first part of Genesis where it says -- I can't quote
14 it to you now.
- 15 Q. But paraphrase. My Pastor would be upset with me.
- 16 A. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- 17 Q. So it was that part. Did you go through the entire book
18 of Genesis?
- 19 A. No, I didn't.
- 20 Q. Had you selected specific scripture verses that you
21 wished to read?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And how many scripture verses do you think you read?
- 24 A. I don't recall.
- 25 Q. You definitely read the in the beginning part?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And then would there have been scripture verses apart or
3 outside of the book of Genesis?
- 4 A. No. It was all in Genesis if I recall correctly.
- 5 Q. Did you bring the Bible with you, or did you just read
6 from your notes?
- 7 A. I just read from my notes.
- 8 Q. Had you looked at the book of Genesis to get a specific
9 quote?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And did you put that in your notes?
- 12 A. Did I put the Bible references in my notes?
- 13 Q. Yes.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You read those Bible references specifically to the
16 Board?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. How long do you think you spoke?
- 19 A. Five minutes.
- 20 Q. Did the Board respond to you?
- 21 A. While I was speaking?
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Did the Board respond to you after you were speaking?
- 25 A. Just before I was finished speaking, Alan Bonsell used

1 his gavel to indicate that my time was up.

2 Q. At that time, were you aware of what the limit was per
3 person during public comment?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did Mr. Bonsell make any other comment other than
6 gaveling to signal that your time was over?

7 A. No.

8 Q. After the Board meeting, did you speak with any of the
9 Board members leaving aside your husband?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And in the week subsequent to that meeting, did any
12 Board members contact you about your comments?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you contact any Board members, apart from your
15 husband, in the weeks following your comments?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you talk to any reporters after that meeting?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Before we move on, let me just ask you: Do you know if
20 anybody spoke after you commented?

21 A. People did speak, yes.

22 Q. Did you return to your seat?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And with whom were you sitting, if anyone?

25 A. There were a few people from my church.

1 Q. Did those people speak?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you identify your church membership during your
4 talk?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do you know if the people who spoke after you addressed
7 your own comments or if they simply read their own
8 statements?

9 A. They read their own statements.

10 Q. After the meeting, did any persons in the audience come
11 up to you and talk to you about your comments?

12 A. No.

13 Q. So let's jump to before you got to the meeting. Had you
14 told your husband that you would be reading this
15 statement?

16 A. I did not discuss it with him. I called him on the
17 phone that afternoon and told him that I would be making
18 a statement.

19 Q. Did you tell him the content of your statement?

20 A. I did not discuss it with him, no.

21 Q. So did you simply say Bill, I am going to be reading a
22 statement tonight, I just want you to be aware of that?

23 A. That's basically what I said.

24 Q. Did you tell him that it was referencing the Intelligent
25 Design issue?

1 A. I did not specifically say that, but I think he surmised
2 that it had something to do with that.

3 Q. What you say you called him, did you call him from
4 Harmony Grove?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You were at work?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How did you become aware that there was a controversy
9 that you wanted to weigh in on?

10 A. There was a lot of newspaper reporting.

11 Q. Do you receive any daily newspapers?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Which newspapers?

14 A. At that time, we received the *York Daily Record*.

15 Q. Was it your practice at that time to read the *York Daily*
16 *Record* on a daily basis?

17 A. I only scanned it daily.

18 Q. Do you know if your husband would read the *York Daily*
19 *Record* as well?

20 A. He would just scan it as well.

21 Q. But it would have been through your scanning of the news
22 that you became aware of the controversy?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you also know of the controversy through
25 conversations with your husband?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And when, if you recall, would have been the first time
3 that he spoke to you about the controversy involving
4 Creationism?

5 A. It would have been shortly after --

6 MR. GILLEN: Objection to the form. I'm sorry.

7 Go ahead.

8 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

9 Q. You may answer.

10 A. It would have been shortly after the newspapers started
11 making reports about the Intelligent Design being
12 introduced into the biology curriculum.

13 Q. Do you think that that would have been in the summer of
14 2004 just generally, the summer time frame?

15 A. Approximately.

16 Q. Prior to summer of 2004, had you ever heard your husband
17 mention the textbook *Of Pandas and People*?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Had you ever heard him discuss with you the textbook
20 called *Biology* by Kenneth Miller?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So your discussions with your husband about the
23 Intelligent Design controversy would have begun sometime
24 in the summer of 2004?

25 A. The few discussions we had, yes.

1 Q. Tell me how many discussions you believe you might have
2 had with your husband.

3 A. There were very few discussions because my husband did
4 not bring that home. That was something that he kept
5 apart from our home life basically.

6 Q. Would you say it would have been less than five
7 discussions?

8 A. Yes. Oh, yes.

9 Q. Were you aware of what his position was following these
10 few discussions that you had had?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. If you can articulate for us, what would his position
13 have been then about the controversy?

14 MR. GILLEN: Objection to the form.

15 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

16 Q. Let me rephrase. You previously testified that you and
17 your husband began discussing the situation sometime in
18 2004; is that correct?

19 A. There were a few discussions, and I can't really call
20 them discussions.

21 Q. What was the nature of the conversations or discussions?

22 A. He indicated to me that it was his desire to try to
23 introduce a different theory into the biology curriculum
24 as opposed to Evolution.

25 Q. Had you asked him about what was going on in school or

1 did he volunteer this information to you?

2 A. When he spoke to me about this, when he first indicated
3 that he was on the curriculum committee, and he
4 indicated that he wanted to try to introduce a book to
5 balance the Theory of Evolution.

6 Q. But he didn't tell you what book that was?

7 A. No, he did not.

8 Q. You said -- and correct me if I am wrong -- typically
9 your husband would not bring school business home with
10 him?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. That he would reserve those discussions with other
13 people on the School Board?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you find this to be a notable occasion that he did
16 bring the topic up with you?

17 A. No, not really notable.

18 Q. Did he seem emotional in any fashion when he was
19 discussing it with you?

20 A. No.

21 Q. So he simply indicated that he wanted to introduce a
22 different curriculum or a different book?

23 A. A different book.

24 Q. And again, what did he tell you that the purpose was for
25 introducing the different book?

1 MR. GILLEN: Objection to the form. Go ahead and
2 answer.

3 A. He wanted to introduce Intelligent Design into the
4 curriculum.

5 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

6 Q. Now when you were making your public comment at that
7 June, 2004 meeting, you told the School Board that
8 Creationism should be taught in schools?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. When your husband and you had these few discussions
11 about the controversy, did he ever indicate to you that
12 he felt similarly?

13 A. No, he did not.

14 Q. Did you ever hear him use the word Creationism?

15 A. No.

16 Q. In the discussion that you had, is it your recollection
17 that he was talking about Intelligent Design?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Had you ever heard the term Intelligent Design prior to
20 your husband mentioning it to you?

21 A. No, I hadn't.

22 Q. Do you have at this time any understanding about what
23 Intelligent Design is?

24 A. I do now.

25 Q. What is your understanding now?

1 A. My understanding now is that Intelligent Design teaches
2 that life is so complex that it had to have been created
3 by a higher power.

4 Q. How did you come to this understanding or definition?

5 A. I read it in the newspapers so many times that that was
6 the one thing that they kept saying over and over again.
7 They would give the explanation of what it is.

8 Q. When you spoke at the Board meeting in June of 2004,
9 were you speaking in support of Intelligent Design or
10 were you speaking in support of Creationism?

11 A. I was speaking in terms of Creationism.

12 Q. At that time, were you aware of the term Intelligent
13 Design?

14 A. I had heard the term, yes.

15 Q. Where had you heard it?

16 A. That was the term that my husband used. That was the
17 term being used in the newspapers.

18 Q. So you had a discussion -- at least one discussion prior
19 to the June of 2004 meeting with your husband about the
20 controversy?

21 MR. GILLEN: Objection to the form. You can
22 answer.

23 A. We didn't really discuss Intelligent Design. That is
24 the term that he used in regards to the book that he
25 wanted to introduce.

1 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

2 Q. Let me ask the question a different way. Had you heard
3 the term Intelligent Design prior to your public
4 comments at the June of 2004 meeting?

5 A. I heard the term. I didn't understand the term.

6 Q. Where had you heard the term?

7 A. That was the term that my husband used in regards to the
8 book that he wanted to introduce, and that was the term
9 being reported in the newspaper.

10 Q. Did you ask him to explain Intelligent Design?

11 A. No, I didn't.

12 Q. Did you ask him where he had heard the term?

13 A. No, I didn't.

14 Q. So at the time that you spoke in June of 2004, you did
15 not understand Intelligent Design?

16 A. No.

17 MS. KNUDSEN: I have one exhibit and ask it be
18 marked. Off the record, please.

19 (A recess was taken.)

20 (Plaintiffs Exhibit 51 was marked.)

21 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

22 Q. Charlotte, I have handed you a copy of what has been
23 marked as Plaintiffs Exhibit 51. It is a three-page
24 handout of a newspaper article.

25 Do you recognize -- you have had a little while to

1 look it over -- the text of the newspaper article?

2 A. I don't remember specifically reading that exact
3 newspaper article, no.

4 Q. Do you recognize the name of Joseph Maldonado?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Who is Mr. Maldonado?

7 A. He is a reporter for the *York Daily Record*.

8 Q. Had you ever spoken to Mr. Maldonado?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And the date of this is June 15th of 2004; is that
11 right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So although this isn't a copy from the newspaper, does
14 this appear to be a copy of an article from the *York*
15 *Daily Record*?

16 A. It does appear to be that way.

17 Q. And I understand that you don't recall specifically
18 reading this article; is that right?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Now the article's headline is about a Dover Area School
21 Board meeting, and it references a Monday night meeting
22 in June of 2004.

23 Is the subject of this article the same Board
24 meeting that you would have attended in June of 2004?

25 MR. GILLEN: Object to the form of the question,

1 but you can answer.

2 A. The question again is?

3 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

4 Q. Sure. Would the meeting that you have attended in June
5 of 2004 be the same meeting that this newspaper report
6 is referencing?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now if we flip to the second page, the fourth paragraph,
9 if I could just have you read that over. It says also
10 during public comments.

11 A. Also during public comments --

12 MR. GILLEN: To yourself.

13 A. I'm sorry.

14 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

15 Q. That's okay. So obviously this is referring to you;
16 would you agree with me?

17 A. Yes, it is.

18 Q. And did you ever have occasion to read Mr. Maldonado's
19 account of what you said at that meeting?

20 A. No, I never read that.

21 Q. This is the first time you have seen your comments
22 reduced to writing in a newspaper article?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did anyone tell you that you had been quoted in the
25 newspaper?

1 A. No one ever told me I was quoted.

2 Q. Did you ever have discussion with your husband about the
3 newspaper article?

4 A. No. No, we didn't really discuss it. I think he may
5 have said you're in the paper today, but that was a
6 common thing. People would say you're in the paper
7 today.

8 Q. Why was that a common thing?

9 A. Because he was in the paper everyday.

10 Q. So when he was saying you're in the paper today --

11 A. It was just a comment. Not really anything meant by it.

12 Q. He didn't read to you the account of what you had said?

13 A. No.

14 Q. When you said it was a common thing, it was a common
15 thing for him to be quoted in the paper?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. It was not common for you to be quoted in the paper?

18 A. No.

19 Q. So today is the first time you have reviewed
20 Mr. Maldonado's account of what you said?

21 A. I know it is hard to believe that, but it is.

22 Q. Do you think in these two paragraphs that Mr. Maldonado
23 has accurately recounted what you said?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Tell us why.

1 A. I don't remember saying that Evolution teaches nothing
2 but lies. I did quote several Bible verses. And when
3 it says how can we allow anything else to be taught in
4 our schools, I did say something before that.

5 What I said was how can we take our children to
6 church on Sunday and then send them to school on Monday
7 to be taught that they evolved from a lower form of
8 life?

9 Q. Did you mention anything about Evolution specifically?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you recall in the next paragraph there's a reference
12 to Reverend Eshbach? Do you recall Reverend Eshbach
13 testifying?

14 A. I remember him speaking.

15 Q. Do you know Reverend Eshbach?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Let's turn to your husband's comments during the
18 meeting. Do you remember your husband making an apology
19 at that meeting?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Had you had any discussions with him at home about
22 making an apology at the meeting?

23 A. No.

24 Q. If we flip back to the first page, and I will just have
25 you read over to yourself the first paragraph.

1 A. (Witness complies.)

2 Q. Are you finished?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. This seems to indicate that your husband made an apology
5 during the Board meeting. You did not hear that?

6 A. No, I didn't.

7 Q. Did you arrive at the beginning, or were you late for
8 the meeting?

9 A. I was there at the beginning. However, I was seated at
10 a table with other people, and we were just talking.

11 Q. Do you remember if your husband spoke at the beginning
12 of the meeting, just generally if he addressed the
13 audience?

14 A. No. I don't remember that.

15 Q. Now turning to the sixth paragraph, and I will read it
16 to you just so we are on the same line. Your husband is
17 quoted as saying two thousand years ago, someone died on
18 a cross, he said. Can't someone take a stand for him?
19 End quote.

20 Do you remember your husband saying that comment
21 at the Board meeting?

22 A. He did not say that at the Board meeting.

23 Q. Do you know if he ever made that statement?

24 A. He did make that statement.

25 Q. When would that have been?

1 A. That statement was in connection with the controversy of
2 taking the pledge -- taking under God out of the pledge.
3 It was not regarding this controversy.

4 Q. Do you remember personally hearing him say that?

5 A. No.

6 Q. At the pledge meeting?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Is your understanding of the time frame that he said
9 this quote based on what he told you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But you were at the pledge meeting?

12 A. I was.

13 Q. You did not hear him say that?

14 A. No.

15 Q. But since he has told you that he made the someone died
16 on a cross comment at the pledge meeting?

17 A. I don't know with certainty that it was made at that
18 meeting. All I know is he did say that he said it, but
19 it was in regards to taking under God out of the pledge.

20 Q. When did you have the conversation about this specific
21 quote?

22 A. When it was reported that he said that.

23 Q. Do you remember when that would have been?

24 A. No, but it was during the time of the taking under God
25 out of the pledge controversy.

1 Q. So you remember having a discussion with him about that
2 quotation sometime after the fall of 2002?

3 A. Yes. But when you say we had a conversation about it,
4 it wasn't actually a conversation. He indicated that it
5 was being reported that he said this, and he said that
6 it was under the previous controversy, not the
7 controversy over Intelligent Design.

8 Q. Okay. So would this have been a recent statement that
9 he made to you about the comment?

10 MR. GILLEN: Object to the form.

11 A. It was not a recent statement, no. It was during the
12 time that this was being reported.

13 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

14 Q. During the pledge controversy?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I think -- go ahead.

17 MR. GILLEN: Let's go off the record.

18 (An off-the-record discussion was had.)

19 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

20 Q. I apologize for being confusing here. I'm just trying
21 to nail down when he mentioned to you hey, I did say
22 that, but it was during the pledge controversy, not the
23 Intelligent Design controversy?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. He mentioned to you that he made this comment during the

1 pledge controversy at the time of the controversy, the
2 pledge controversy or some time later?

3 A. It was later.

4 Q. So would it have been in 2004 or even this year in 2005?

5 A. It was in 2004.

6 Q. Was it after the Board passed its resolution to
7 introduce Intelligent Design, which I will represent to
8 you was October 18th of 2004?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So it was sometime during the mass publicity that
11 followed the Board's decision?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you know if your husband ever called the newspaper to
14 report the inaccuracy of the timing of his quote?

15 A. No, he didn't.

16 Q. Do you know why?

17 A. He didn't want to talk to the newspapers because he felt
18 that anything that he said was not being reported
19 accurately.

20 Q. Do you know if your husband ever spoke to TV reporters?

21 A. Not that I can recall.

22 Q. Have you ever spoken to TV reporters about the
23 Intelligent Design controversy or the pledge controversy
24 or the prayer controversy?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Have you spoken to any TV reporters since this
2 litigation was filed in December of 2004?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Do you know if your husband has spoken to any TV
5 reporters since the litigation was filed in December of
6 2004?

7 A. All I can say about that is there were numerous
8 television stations calling him to ask him to speak, but
9 he did not speak.

10 Q. And how were the newspaper reporters getting in touch
11 with your husband?

12 A. They called our home.

13 Q. Is your home phone number listed publicly?

14 A. Our home number is unlisted; however, it has become
15 quite public.

16 Q. Does that continue to this day, that you are still
17 receiving phone calls from reporters?

18 A. No. We haven't received any calls for quite a while.

19 Q. Before I forget, I want to ask you about your gospel
20 ministry that you testified to earlier. What is that?

21 A. I sing southern gospel music.

22 Q. Is that with a group, or is it solo?

23 A. Solo.

24 Q. Do you have a name for your solo performances or is it
25 just --

- 1 A. Just my name.
- 2 Q. How frequently do you perform?
- 3 A. About eight to ten times a year.
- 4 Q. Is that all in York County, or do you go outside of York
5 County?
- 6 A. It is basically in York county.
- 7 Q. Is it mostly in the church setting?
- 8 A. No. I sing in nursing homes and retirement centers,
9 retreats, family picnics.
- 10 Q. How long have you been performing in that capacity?
- 11 A. About six years.
- 12 Q. Do you have any understanding as to whether or not you
13 are well known in the county as a gospel music singer?
- 14 A. I am pretty well known.
- 15 Q. Do you have any understanding as to whether or not
16 you're well known as a Christian gospel music singer?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. You believe that you are?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Are you paid for these performances?
- 21 A. I receive free will offerings.
- 22 Q. Do you participate in any other community activities
23 apart from your association at Harmony Grove and your
24 gospel ministry?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Now let's turn back to the School Board meetings. We
2 know that you attended the prayer meeting, the pledge
3 meeting, the Intelligent Design meeting.

4 So that is three School Board meetings; is that
5 right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you attend any after you spoke publicly in June of
8 2004?

9 A. I think I attended one.

10 Q. Do you know when that would have been?

11 A. All I know is there was a tremendous thunderstorm. I
12 think it was in the fall of 2004.

13 Q. Was it during the time of the continuing controversy
14 about Intelligent Design?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What was your purpose in attending the meeting?

17 A. Just to be there.

18 Q. To listen or to show support or --

19 A. To listen.

20 Q. What specifically did you want to listen to?

21 A. I wanted to listen to what was being said to my husband
22 and what was being said about Intelligent Design.

23 Q. Did you ever encourage your husband to continue with his
24 support of the Intelligent Design curriculum change?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Just so we are clear on the conversations or discussions
2 that you had with him, they were very limited?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. At one point, he mentioned Intelligent Design?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And he mentioned the book?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But he never at any point told you what book he was
9 considering?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Have you personally had any contacts with a group called
12 the Discovery Institute?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Have you had any contacts with groups that would support
15 the introduction of Intelligent Design into schools?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you contribute to any national organizations
18 financially?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You testified earlier that you now have an understanding
21 of what Intelligent Design is; is that correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And have you done any separate research apart from
24 reading the newspaper to educate yourself as to what
25 Intelligent Design is?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. You testified earlier that in June of 2004, you were
3 receiving the *York Daily Record*; is that right?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Do you receive a different newspaper now?
- 6 A. We still receive the *York Daily Record*.
- 7 Q. Do you receive another newspaper?
- 8 A. We were receiving the *York Dispatch* for a time.
- 9 Q. Do you know what time frame that would have been?
- 10 A. It was about the last six months.
- 11 Q. So when did you stop receiving the *York Dispatch*?
- 12 A. It has been about two months.
- 13 Q. So around February?
- 14 A. February.
- 15 Q. Of 2005?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And when do you think you would have started your
18 subscription to the *York Dispatch*?
- 19 A. It would have been in the fall of 2004, somewhere around
20 there.
- 21 Q. Why did you subscribe to the additional daily out of
22 York?
- 23 A. Bill wanted to see what was being said in that newspaper
24 about him, what stories were being reported.
- 25 Q. And in February of 2005, did you cancel the subscription

1 or did Bill?

2 A. Bill did.

3 Q. Do you know why he did?

4 A. He just didn't see the need to pay for that paper any
5 longer.

6 Q. Do you know if it was because the controversy had died
7 down somewhat?

8 A. Well, not really because we were getting so many -- we
9 were getting two papers, they were piling up, and nobody
10 was reading them so he didn't feel the need to pay for
11 them any longer.

12 Q. During your comments in the June of 2004 meeting, did
13 you mention Darwinism at all?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Had you ever heard your husband mention Darwinism?

16 A. I think he mentioned the word, but there was no
17 really -- no discussion about it.

18 Q. Would it have been at home or at a Board meeting that
19 you heard him mention it?

20 A. At a Board meeting.

21 Q. Do you know which Board meeting you heard him say that
22 at?

23 A. It would have been at that -- well, let me back up. I
24 can't remember in what context it was.

25 Q. When we are talking about him mentioning the word, are

- 1 you saying that you personally heard him say it or you
2 have just heard him being quoted as having said it?
- 3 A. I don't remember.
- 4 Q. So you can't recall a specific time where you personally
5 might have heard him say the word?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Do you ever recall having a discussion with your husband
8 about a mural in the Dover Area School District that
9 depicted a scene showing progression of man from ape?
- 10 A. He did tell me that there had been a mural there.
- 11 Q. When did he tell you that?
- 12 A. It was about the time he was talking about the biology
13 curriculum.
- 14 Q. And why did he bring the subject up to you?
- 15 A. He just said that there had been a mural there and
16 described what it was. And that was all he said about
17 it.
- 18 Q. So it was in the context of your brief conversation
19 about Intelligent Design?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Did your husband categorize that mural as depicting
22 Evolution?
- 23 A. He said it was pictures of apes. He didn't really say
24 Evolution.
- 25 Q. Did he say anything about what he thought of such a

1 mural being posted in a public school?

2 A. No, he didn't really say.

3 Q. He just told you that there was such a mural?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Did you ever have a discussion with your husband about
6 toning down his comments at a public meeting?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do you know if he had ever been asked to tone his
9 comments down?

10 A. No.

11 Q. We are almost done. I just want to make sure I have hit
12 everything. I want to go back to your statement one
13 more time.

14 Did you speak to anybody else when you were
15 preparing your notes to read to the Board on June -- in
16 June of 2004.

17 A. No. I spoke to no one.

18 Q. And if I am understanding correctly, the only research
19 you would have done was to select some passages out of
20 the Bible?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you look at any websites?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you use the Internet?

25 A. Yes, I do.

1 Q. What sites do you visit when you look at the Internet?

2 A. I search for accompaniment tapes that I use for singing.

3 I had done research on cancer because we had had family
4 members who had cancer, that sort of thing.

5 Q. Had you ever done any research about Intelligent Design?

6 A. No.

7 Q. On the Internet?

8 A. Never.

9 Q. Do you use e-mail?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Have you ever e-mailed any person on the subject of
12 Intelligent Design?

13 A. Never.

14 Q. Have you ever received an e-mail from any person on the
15 subject of Intelligent Design?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Have you ever sent an e-mail to anyone on the subject of
18 teaching Creationism in public schools?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Have you received any e-mails on the subject of teaching
21 Creationism in public schools?

22 A. No.

23 Q. On the lines of receiving things, have you received any
24 letters of support from people based on your comments at
25 the June of 2004 meeting?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And just to make sure I have got this about the June of
3 2004 statement, you told the School Board Directors that
4 you felt Creationism should be taught in the schools?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is there a reason why you chose to present Creationism
7 as opposed to Intelligent Design?

8 A. Because my faith. I believe that God created the earth
9 and all that is on it. And that is what I felt should
10 be taught to the students.

11 Q. Are you a taxpayer within the Dover Area School
12 District?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How do you feel about Intelligent Design being part of
15 the curriculum in the Dover Area School District?

16 A. I feel it is appropriate.

17 Q. Why is that?

18 A. Because I feel the students should have an alternative
19 theory to evolution.

20 Q. Would you prefer that students were taught Creationism
21 in science class, or are you satisfied with Intelligent
22 Design being taught in the classroom?

23 A. I'm satisfied with Intelligent Design.

24 Q. And do you feel that Intelligent Design gives religious
25 students an option in which they can place their

1 religious beliefs?

2 MR. GILLEN: Objection to the form.

3 MS. KNUDSEN: That was a horrible question.

4 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

5 Q. Can you answer that?

6 A. Yes. I believe Intelligent Design does give them an
7 alternative option.

8 Q. Can you explain that?

9 A. Because it gives them the opportunity to realize that
10 there are other theories besides Evolution, and hoping
11 that they will research those theories and come to an
12 understanding which best suits their beliefs.

13 Q. Do you believe based on your understanding of
14 Intelligent Design now that it is a scientific theory?

15 A. I believe it is a scientific theory.

16 Q. What is your basis for that?

17 A. That it -- science is the art of research. And
18 Intelligent Design is a form of research.

19 Q. Have you had any conversations with your husband this
20 year about the Intelligent Design controversy?

21 A. We haven't really had any conversations about it.

22 Q. Have you ever had any discussions with him about the
23 Thomas More Law Center representing the Dover Area
24 School District?

25 A. I only know that they are representing them. We have

1 never discussed it.

2 Q. Do you know what the Thomas More Law Center is?

3 A. I don't know a lot about it, no.

4 Q. Okay. Do you know if they have any particular area in
5 which they represent clients?

6 A. I do not know what areas they represent.

7 Q. Did you speak to anyone else other than Mr. Gillen to
8 prepare for today's deposition?

9 A. No, I didn't.

10 Q. Did you review any written material to prepare for
11 today's deposition?

12 A. No, I did not.

13 Q. Is there anything else that you wish to tell me or
14 correct that you testified to earlier today?

15 MR. GILLEN: Object to the form.

16 BY MS. KNUDSEN:

17 Q. Is there anything that you wish to correct that you
18 testified to earlier that you now think might be
19 incorrect?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Is there anything additional that you want to tell me
22 about subject areas that you feel haven't been fully
23 fleshed out?

24 MR. GILLEN: I object to the form.

25 A. No. There is really nothing more I want to tell you. I

1 just want you to understand that my husband and I had
2 very limited conversations because he is not a great
3 talker at home. And you know, basically, we didn't have
4 a lot of discussions about any of this.

5 MS. KNUDSEN: That's all the questions I have.

6 MR. GILLEN: I have none.

7 (The deposition was concluded at 11:22 a.m.)
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
 :
 COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND :

I, Vicki L. Fox, Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and County of Cumberland, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony was taken before me at the time and place hereinbefore set forth, and that it is the testimony of:

CHARLOTTE BUCKINGHAM

I further certify that said witness was by me duly sworn to testify the whole and complete truth in said cause; that the testimony then given was reported by me stenographically, and subsequently transcribed under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of my original shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am not counsel for nor related to any of the parties to the foregoing cause, nor employed by them or their attorneys, and am not interested in the subject matter or outcome thereof.

Dated at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, this 27th day of April, 2005.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 Notarial Seal
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Vicki L. Fox

 Vicki L. Fox
 Reporter - Notary Public

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Book is focus of more debate

The teaching of creationism or evolution was the topic again at the Dover Area School Board meeting.

By JOSEPH MALDONADO
For the Daily Record/Sunday News
Tuesday, June 15, 2004

At Monday evening's Dover Area School Board meeting, William Buckingham apologized to anyone he may have offended with the comments he made at last week's board meeting during discussions over a new biology book for the high school.

But then the school board member reiterated one of his statements to the roughly 90 in attendance that the separation of church and state is a myth.

"Nowhere in the Constitution does it call for a separation of church and state," he said.

But, in part of the First Amendment to the Constitution, it states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..."

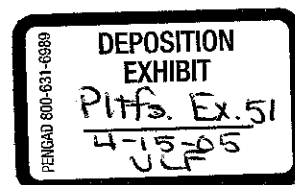
Buckingham said while growing up, his generation prayed and read from the Bible during school. Then he said liberals in "black robes" were taking away the rights of Christians.

"Two thousand years ago, someone died on a cross," he said. "Can't someone take a stand for him?"

Last week, Buckingham said that the science department's choice for a new biology book is "laced" with Darwinism. This week, he said a Seattle-based think-tank gave the book, "Biology," by Miller and Levine, an "F" grade. He didn't name the think-tank at the meeting and he didn't say why the book received an "F."

But in reference to its teaching of Darwinism, he said, "I challenge you (the audience) to trace your roots to the monkey you came from."

Board member Carol Brown said she reviewed the book and had it with her at the meeting. She said the book makes no mention of anyone evolving from monkeys.



During public comments, Bertha Spahr, chair of the high school science department, said the 1,000-plus-page text only contains seven pages that refer to Darwinism.

In addition to meeting state standards, she said the book was chosen by her department because it takes into account the many different beliefs Dover residents may have.

"It was the least offensive book we could find," she said.

Also during public comments, Buckingham's wife, Charlotte Buckingham, argued that evolution teaches nothing but lies. After quoting several verses from the book of Genesis in the Bible, she asked, "How can we allow anything else to be taught in our schools?"

During her time, she repeated gospel verses telling people how to become born-again Christians and said evolution was in direct violation of the teachings of the Bible.

But the Rev. Warren Eshbach, retired, said the book of Genesis was not written as a science book, but rather as a statement of faith. "It's the place of the church to teach on matters of faith," he said. "Not public schools."

He also said the creationism vs. evolution issue was polarizing the community.

During the meeting, Buckingham told those in attendance that he had been asked to tone down his Christian remarks.

"But I must be who I am, and not politically correct," he said.

After the discussion, Dover Area High School graduate Brad Erney said creationism would only be acceptable in the classroom if it could be taught without a religious context.

"But that's impossible," he said. "This whole thing opens the board up to lawsuits that could end up costing already overburdened taxpayers a lot of money."

As resident Susan Napierskie was leaving the meeting with her three young daughters, she said she had mixed feelings.

"I'm raising my girls with Christian values," she said. "But I can't be a hypocrite and say that in a public school, teachers can only teach from a Christian perspective. One of the reasons people settled in this country was to escape religious persecution."

Napierskie shook her head and said the teaching of evolution does have the potential to undermine the values she is trying to instill in her daughters.