



**CITY OF DUBUQUE
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

Government Body: Equity and Human Rights Commission

Time: 4:30 P.M

Date: March 12, 2024

Place of Meeting: **Multicultural Family Center**
1157 Central Avenue
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above identified governmental body will meet at the time, date and place set forth above. The TENTATIVE AGENDA for the meeting is as follows:

- Roll Call
- Approval of February 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes
- Reflections and Updates
- Goals Implementation Progress
- Reports:
 - Caseload Report
 - Director's Report
 - Chairperson's Report
- Old Business
 - Conversation about the concept of belonging
- New Business
 - EHR budget presentation for City Council March 27 discussion
 - Creation of a team to monitor legislative actions on the state and federal level
 - Iowa bill overhauling social studies education discussion (see TH article)
 - Recent legislation removing gender parody discussion
 - Iowa bill would ban citizen police review boards (<https://www.thegazette.com/state-government/iowa-bill-would-ban-citizen-police-review-boards/>)
 - John Lewis Youth Leadership Award nominations
- Public Input
 - 2023 Grant recipient, Alanda Gregory, to report on the 2023 Black Expo.
- Next meeting scheduled for April 9, 2024, at 4:30 pm at the Multicultural Family Center
- Adjourn

This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 21, Code of Iowa, and applicable local regulations of the City of Dubuque and/or the governmental body holding the meeting.

Carla Anderson
Office of Equity and Human Rights Chairwoman

Individuals with limited English proficiency, or vision, hearing or speech impairments requiring special assistance should contact the Dubuque Human Rights Commission at (563)589-4190 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



STEPHEN GASSMAN • *Telegraph Herald*

Dubuque Senior High School teacher Dain Leytem leads a government class on Thursday at the school.

Iowa bill to dictate teaching of history?

Iowa House Republicans pass a controversial and detailed overhaul of social studies education.

BY BENJAMIN FISHER
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Iowa House Republicans passed a bill this week that would reshape social studies education in the state, restricting curricula to topics and ideologies that support majority members' lens of history.

The bill would require that

detailed lists of selected documents, exclusively European and Western historical figures, and U.S. historical events that the bill's drafters see as positive be taught to prescribed grade levels in Iowa's public and private schools. Throughout, the bill requires that these topics and events be taught in a way that emphasizes their positive

aspects and that establishes that the curricula taught based on the bill's language be framed as full facts, unable to be construed. The bill also requires that high school students pass a civics test based on the prescribed curricula to graduate and that public universities require students to have taken such a civics test,

among other requirements.

The bill passed along party lines, Republicans for and Democrats against. Republicans said on the House floor during debate that the bill would ensure that Iowa youths learn a history that makes them proud of the United States.

See **BILL, PAGE 3A**

BILL: Democratic legislator calls measure 'another attack on teachers'

Continued from page 1A

Iowa Rep. Steve Bradley, R-Cascade, spoke in favor of the bill.

"As somebody who likes to study history, I want my grandkids and my great-grandkids to know why my dad served in the Korean War," he said, before listing other veteran family members. "This is the best bill that we've done so far."



Steve Bradley

Democrats argued through statements and attempted amendments to the bill that it would force enormous hardship on already taxed teachers, that it was a slanted view of history like propaganda and criticized it being sourced not from Iowa but from an out-of-state conservative organization.

"The portion of this bill that is appropriate is already being taught," said Iowa Rep. Art Staed, D-Cedar Rapids, a retired school administrator and curriculum developer. "It's just another attack on teachers ... when they, not us legislators, meet the educational

requirements to create curriculum." Broadly, the bill would require schools to focus social studies education on "the history of the secular and religious ideals and institutions of liberty, including political, religious, economic, social and cultural liberty, in Western civilization, the United States and the state of Iowa, which emphasizes the good, worthwhile, and best achievements of these ideals and institutions of liberty" and "exemplary figures in Western civilization, the United States and the state of Iowa who have fought to secure liberty." Those requirements would begin in first grade.

The bill specifically would require seventh- and eighth-grade curricula to include a long list of topics beginning with the "intellectual sources" of the U.S.' founding documents, comparing the U.S. republican form of government with dictatorship, monarchy, oligarchy, theocracy, communism and autocracy, history from the time of colonialism to the present day — labeled the study of and devotion to the United States' exceptional and praiseworthy history." In the same

grades, students must be taught the benefits of free-enterprise economics and the failures of other economic systems.

The bill would require five units of social studies in high school including civics, not to include "action civics." High school history would focus on aspects of U.S. culture based on Christian and European ideologies, would have to include a select list of historical figures chosen by the bill's drafters and would include a basic history of "the fruitful and enduring attachment of Western civilizations' free peoples to their nations and faiths."

Kristin Weiland has taught social studies in Dubuque Community School District for 19 years. She is now the social studies educational support leader for grades six through 12. On a bulletin board above her desk at Dubuque Senior High School is a bumper sticker that reads "I have the courage to teach hard history."

On Thursday, Weiland told the Telegraph Herald in an interview that the bill would cause immediate problems for social studies departments and school districts across the state.

"This bill is contradicting our standards, which would already make it difficult right away," she said. "That's going to create issues at every single level. There are already a lot of districts still working on implementing Iowa's social studies standards that came on a few years ago. We would need new curriculum materials, which would take a lot of money."

Weiland also said the bill would reverse the benefits she has seen students gain from the new standards, which encourage critical thinking as well as learning about historical touchstones and contexts.

"They won't be able to grapple with history in the way we do right now," she said. "Right now, they're diving into history in a way that I would have loved to when I was young. This potentially puts us into a situation where we're just teaching kids things they could Google."

Weiland also said the civics test requirement created another barrier to high school graduation and collegiate acceptance. She also said the curricula would likely bar Iowa's Advanced Placement credits from

being accepted by universities in other states.

Western Dubuque Community School District leaders did not comment by deadline Thursday.

In an interview Thursday, Loras College political science professor Chris Budzisz said it was rare for the Iowa Legislature to pass such detailed curricula.

"Traditionally, it has been uncommon to see such a prescriptive approach," he said. "You're talking oftentimes (previously) about generalized standards, nothing like this. I think it's symptomatic of the broader trends happening not just in Iowa, but other Republican-controlled states, and the results of organized interest groups. It also fits with general trends around criticism of teachers and of increasing scrutiny on the public school system."

After passing the House, the bill went to the Iowa Senate, where it was referred to the Senate Education Committee on Thursday. Iowa Sen. Chris Cournoyer, R-LeClaire, is the only area lawmaker serving on that committee.