

Remarks of Rex F. Powell to the Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday June 11, 2013

Madam Chairman and Members of the Kansas State Board of Education

I am Rex F. Powell.

I am a member of Citizens for Objective Public Education or (COPE), a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the religious rights of parents, students and taxpayers, and to improving our public education standards.

Mr. Greg Lassey, an officer of COPE, addressed this body May 14, 2013. He provided you with two analyses of the Next Generation Science Standards. He asked for an opportunity to explain in more detail critical issues outlined in the analyses.

Since May 14th 2013, neither Mr. Lassey nor COPE has been contacted by the Department of Education. Nor have they been contacted by representatives from the Kansas State Board of Education.

COPE has also received no written response to any of the concerns expressed in the two letters. The lack of response is somewhat surprising, given the nature of the complaints and the critical importance of this educational policy.

As explained by Mr. Lassey, the primary concern is that the *Framework* and *Standards* cause children to ask two ultimate religious questions - where do we come from, and what is the nature of life?

Using a subtle generally hidden doctrine called scientific materialism, the Standards lead children beginning at the age of six, to answer these questions with only atheistic answers.

Children are to learn that we come from matter, not mind, and that life is a random occurrence, not a creation. These are the tenets of non-theistic religions like Atheism and Religious ("secular") Humanism.

COPE's complaint is not with an objective teaching of origins science. Rather its analyses show that the Standards are a prescription for the inculcation of an atheistic world view in the minds of impressionable children. They are standards for religious indoctrination, rather than objective science education that touches religious issues.

We are surprised with the silence to this complaint. The silence suggests acknowledgement of institutionalized indoctrination, rather than denial and that is a chilling thought.

Again, we would invite a much more thorough study of the referenced issues before you begin to act on the Next Generation Science Standards.

Thank you for listening.