

## Dallas district asks Gov. Brown for clarity on gender issues

By Jolene Guzman  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas School Board sent a letter to Gov. Kate Brown and state lawmakers asking for clarity on the Oregon Equality Act as it applies to transgender students' use of locker rooms and restrooms.

This fall, the district received and approved a request from a transgender boy to use the boys' locker room.

School officials made the decision on advice of its attorneys, Oregon School Boards Association advisors and an Oregon Department of Education's civil rights specialists.

"However, we have also received documents from outside groups that have indicated varying legal interpretations for these federal and state laws in regards to the legal obligations under federal and state law," stated the Feb. 3 letter. "This information has also been provided to community mem-

bers, who continue to address questions on the legal rights of transgender students, and all students, regarding access to same-sex facilities in schools."

The Oregon Equality Act of 2007, also known as Senate Bill 2, made it illegal to discriminate against someone based on sexual orien-

tation or gender identity. Community members who disagree with the district's interpretation of state law have questioned whether the intent of the law was to allow locker room use to only those who have had gender reassignment surgery. The board voted to send the letter in a special

meeting on Feb. 3.

"As the Dallas School District Board, we are requesting state clarification on the application of Senate Bill 2 (2007) in public schools specifically as related to access of same sex facilities," the letter stated.

To read the entire letter, go to [www.polkio.com](http://www.polkio.com).

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Gynecological care is available in Dallas at the West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic. **Gynecologist Keita Sakon, MD**, specializes in gynecology exams and procedures, including hysteroscopy and laparoscopy, as well as family planning, abnormal Pap evaluation, treatment of pelvic pain, symptom control for menopause and abnormal periods. Dr. Sakon works in Dallas on Friday afternoons from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. seeing patients at the clinic and performing gynecological procedures in the West Valley Hospital surgical suites. New patients are welcome! West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Call 503-831-0784 for an appointment. Visit [westvalleyhospital.org/specialtyclinic](http://westvalleyhospital.org/specialtyclinic).

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• **WEST VALLEY SURGICAL SPECIALTY CLINIC** podiatrists **Dr. Ruben Pollak** and **Dr. Scott Berg** see patients at West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic and provide procedures and surgeries for feet, ankle, bunions and plantar fasciitis at nearby West Valley Hospital's state-of-the-art surgery suites. Request one of these podiatrists and get your surgical care done locally. Dr. Berg sees patients at West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic on Wednesdays, 8 a.m. - noon. Dr. Pollak sees patients on Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. West Valley Surgical Specialty Clinic is located at 591 SE Clay St., Dallas. Visit [salemhealth.org/specialty](http://salemhealth.org/specialty).

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