



# Texas Association of Non-Public Schools

The Public Voice of Private Schools in Texas

May 4, 2011

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To the Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools:

The Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Non-Public Schools (TANS) wishes to convey its disappointment to the TAPPS Board of Directors for its refusal to engage in a dialogue regarding TAPPS' current practice of obstructing or denying membership to Islamic schools.

In the absence of a TAPPS representative, this issue was discussed at our most recent board meeting. It was our unanimous opinion that any decision of a state-wide organization that threatens the fair and equitable treatment of private schools or that contributes to a negative public perception of private schools in Texas falls within the scope of the TANS advocacy mission.

The following is intended to further clarify the appropriateness of TANS' concern:

- TANS exists to advocate for the equitable treatment of **all** private schools in Texas and is willing to work with any private organization that serves a public function to ensure this end. It is also incumbent upon TANS to promote a vision of private schooling that is based on justice and fairness.
- TANS believes that any organization that purports to serve and represent the interest of private schools should follow its own policies without exception, operating above reproach in the public eye.
- Because of TAPPS' prominence as the state's largest private interscholastic competition league, denial of membership for ostensibly religious reasons will have a negative impact on the public perception of all private schools.
- In the cases involving Islamic schools, we believe that TAPPS violated its own bylaws by discriminating against schools on the basis of criteria that are not expressed in its governing documents.

This discriminatory practice leaves open the possibility that the TAPPS board would feel the freedom in the future to deny membership or privileges to other types of schools for reasons not articulated in its bylaws.

Therefore, on behalf of the nine hundred plus non-public schools in Texas which serve both religious and secular communities, **the TANS Board of Directors calls on the TAPPS Board of Directors to amend its current admission practices to be consistent with its own bylaws.**

We believe that both TAPPS and its member schools, which represent the diversity of families in Texas, will benefit from TAPPS' adherence to its own rules and to the law. Should the TAPPS board or any of its representatives like to meet with TANS' Executive Director, President, or board, we would welcome that opportunity.

Yours Respectfully,

William D. McGee, President

Charles T. Evans, Executive Director