

Work Session
June 22, 2021 6:00 PM
VanHoose Education Center
Stewart Auditorium

Agenda Item: **VI. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (Deferred to Email Due to COVID Attendance Limitations)**

Speaker:

Rationale: Until meeting room capacity returns to normal, members of the public will have the opportunity to voice opinions or express concerns by submitting remarks via email. Remarks should be limited to 500 words or less and sent to the Assistant Secretary to the Board (angela.gilpin@jefferson.kyschools.us) for dissemination purposes prior to the meeting. Public remarks will be shared with each Board member and recorded in the Official Minutes.

Subject: CRT, ARE Tool against Constitutional Law & Capitalism, John Marshall bias against Whites

Dear JCPS School Board,

Critical Race Theory is illegal in Kentucky –it goes against the code of ethics for administrators and teachers. See KRS 161.790 & KRS 161.028 of the Kentucky Educational Standards Board: Kentucky law states <http://www.epsb.ky.gov/mod/page/view.php?id=55>

- :Certified Personnel - “ Shall believe in the worth and dignity of each human being...”
- “in a non discriminatory manner...”
- “protect the health, safety, and emotional wellbeing of students”
- “...refrain from subjecting students to embarrassment or disparagement...”
- “...equitable treatment...”

Teaching Blacks that they are worth less and they have no hope is racist. Teaching Whites they have implicit bias is racist. I have worked with adults and children of all races. We are all human. I can guarantee you that people in all races have bias. Take for example the JCPS Diversity & Equity Chief John Marshall. Here is a Tweet from his Twitter account (now gone private) <https://twitter.com/jdm1906> :

- Aug. 12 **“Just once I want to speak to a room of white people who know they are there because they are the problem.”**

Next let’s look at the JCPS Affirming Racial Equity (ARE)

Tool. <https://www.jefferson.kyschools.us/sites/default/files/AffirmingRacialEquityTool.pdf> Clicking on the glossary link at the top, brings us here: <https://www.racialequitytools.org/glossary> From this JCPS/A.R.E Tool source, we see that it is **AGAINST** the-U.S. Constitutional law and Capitalism:

Please look at the terms, the definitions, and the sources. When **clicking on the sources**, I found:

About the U. S. Constitution:

- **Critical Race Theory** – “unlike traditional civil rights, which embraces ...step by step progress, **critical race theory questions** the very foundations of the liberal order,...and the principals of **constitutional law.**”

About Capitalism:

- **“White Supremacy Culture”** the source is “Sharon Martinas...” By clicking on **Challenging White Supremacy Workshops/Links/Colors of Resistance**, I see <http://www.csworkshop.org/> :
 - ✓ Colors of Resistance-a grassroots network who work to develop anti-racist, multiracial politics in the movement **against global capitalism**. We are committed to helping build an anti-racist, anti-imperialist, multiracial, feminist, queer and trans liberationist, anti-authoritarian movement **against global capitalism**. We are committed to integrating an anti-oppression framework...”

We all are against racism and White Supremacy, but Neo-Marxists have redefined these terms. Now all Whites are racists and all conservatives are White Supremacists. "Anti-racism" becomes a Trojan horse for Socialism. Quoting **W.E. B. DuBois** (known Communist w/ FBI file):

"To foment socialist revolution, an antiracist consciousness was a prerequisite." In other words, Marxists/Socialists use the term "anti-racism" to sneak in Marxism/Socialism. <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2019/12/web-du-bois-jefferson-school-pan-africanism-communist-party>

JCPS kids are taught Thanksgiving is not about giving thanks, but grieving and activism for the land taken. Students are taught **NOT** who used to live in this land, but on whose land are we now living. A CJ article shows reparations & Decolonization ends private property. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2019/07/11/how-slavery-reparations-could-work-in-america/1635333001/>

Respectfully, we have been duped into taking our kids on the road to Marxism, Socialism, and Communism. Please turn this around. This is not even the tip of the iceberg of problems with CRT at JCPS.

Thank you,

Charlotte Warren C. W. evenotte@bellsouth.net

I am writing to express my horror that JCPS is even considering teaching Critical Race Theory to our children!

This abhorrent curriculum teaches children:

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;
- An individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;
- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex;
- Members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex;
- An individual's moral character is determined by his or her race or sex;
- An individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;
- An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex;
- Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a particular race to oppress members of another race;
- The Commonwealth or the United States is fundamentally or irredeemably racist or sexist;
- Values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs can be assigned to a race or sex, or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex;
- Promoting or advocating the violent overthrow of the United States government; or
- Promoting division between, or resentment of, a race, sex, religion, creed, nonviolent political affiliation, social class, or class of people.

I find most of the views expressed above are reprehensible and have no place in the state's classrooms. I think a majority of parents would agree, if they were informed of what the curriculum advocates.

Please stop this from being taught in our schools!!

With much concern for the welfare of my children,

Christina West

Mother of six, public school educated children (unless CRT is adopted, then I will pull them out faster than you can imagine!)

Subject: CRT - NO

CRT - NO - Shame on you all for even considering it

sxcarp@netzero.com

Subject: Greenwood

Hi my name is Nicole buckley I work at Greenwood elementary I am the cafeteria manager I was at the school the day we had a irate parent try to enter the building with a gun me and my staff physically fought him off and now I'm wondering why are we still waiting on security why are we still waiting on funding for security and why security is not being spoke about in these meetings I have reached out to everyone of you board members and have only heard back from one of you this is a serious issue in our day and age if you watch the news every day you see Mass shootings taking place with the events that happened at our school I just do not feel right sitting still and being quiet about it it was literally seconds before this madman made it into our building with a handgun and could've done a lot of damage before security and the police even got there we have security cameras in my building so we're able to detail the events that happened afterwards but that was children's lives were in my employees hands to keep this madman out of our building is something that we were not trained for and in the day and age that we live in. I am suggesting that all JC PS buildings have security and if you have a building that has guns brought in by students then we need metal detectors and wands to keep our kids safe there has to be funding somewhere in our budget this is our future the safety of these children. Dr. polio is acting now on the infrastructure of our schools to get them up and running so that we can have them for future education but what is the point of having them for future of education if a madman comes shoots up a whole elementary school those kids won't be back at school they will be dead it was very scary what happen at Greenwood. We have not been supported by the broad members! we need security for our youngest the most vulnerable population the kids that you force to come into those buildings the parents drop off and think that they'll be safe for the day if me or one of my girls would've slipped up that day The madman would've made it in our building and then we what would we be talking about right now! again I'm asking for security for all JC PS buildings if you have a building that has guns being brought in by students then I'm asking for metal detectors and wands we have to be proactive we have to stand up we have to protect our children.

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From: Buckley, Nicole S. nicole.buckley@jefferson.kyschools.us

Subject: Reject CRT

Please share my email with the JCPS Board before the JCPS meeting at 6 PM June 22.

I am a parent and citizen concerned that Critical Race Theory is being taught and advocated at JCPS.

I am opposed to this. It is an assault on our country and our local communities.

—CRT is being used to teach students ethnic stereotypes and that America is irredeemable racist.

—It does not allow true equality to award resources on the basis of skin color. That is Racist! Rather set standards of excellence and help all students reach their full potential. Skin color does not determine ability. Stop lowering standards to provide some artificial equity. This is a lie.

—CRT will leave “favored” groups more dependent on public subsidy and redistribution. The way to escape dependency on government is to provide excellence in education for ALL students. Education gives opportunities to ALL students and raises everyone out of poverty for generations. CRT would hold down all of our students.

—Marxism is evil and this CRT is an assault on all of us.

I know hundreds of parents and citizens who are paying attention and we will vote this school board out if you allow CRT. The schools are not for training political activists. Shame on people who are using their decision-making powers to further this political agenda.

Nan Dryden

JCPS parent and citizen of Louisville, Ky.

nandryden@me.com

Subject: CRT is not acceptable!

Do not teach our children CRT. I will be passing this on to every parent I know in JCPS. We will not allow this to happen. We are all awake and ready to push back against this now!!

nkd9133@protonmail.com

Subject: CRT in Jefferson County School

Please stop any notion of teaching CRT to our children. This is such a lie and will cause more unrest between students in school and most importantly in life. Truth needs to be taught in school regarding our nation's history. Both the good and the ugly - NOT LIES!

Cheri Misner cheri.misner@gmail.com

Subject: CRT in our schools

PLEASE! We must not teach CRT Critical Race Theory in our schools! Our students will become MORE divided and more hatred will be stirred up among them. This is a far left Marxist theory that should NEVER be allowed here in our schools. Yes, racism is wrong, but this teaching is also wrong! I do not want my children, grandchildren being told they are bad, racist just because they are white!

pat griff patdgriffin@yahoo.com

My name is Benjamin Bush, teacher at Marion C. Moore school, and I am sending this email seeking permission to speak at the June 22nd school board meeting. I have emailed all school board members a copy of the letter regarding overcrowding in my building that I have attached below.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nu6wNu7Vvcc7ozteymqBJgOQj1QWkkUJWg2zA9fOVFo/edit?usp=sharing>

This letter, though it exceeds 500 words, gives an overview of what I intend to speak about. I would be happy to cut it down if necessary for the meeting. It is co-signed by over 70 members of the faculty and staff at Moore and represents our collective views. Please let me know how I should proceed in order to ensure my ability to speak on the 22nd or at a later date.

Thank you!

-Benjamin Bush

Dear School Board Members,

Hello. My name is Benjamin Bush, and I am a teacher at Marion C. Moore School. I have been a teacher at Moore for 10 years. I love what I do, I love where I teach, and I love the people that I work with. I believe that the administrators, teachers, and staff at my school are hard working, talented, and well-intentioned.

Marion C. Moore is a school that is 87% free and reduced lunch, 36% black, 22%, hispanic or Latino, 34% white, and has a wonderfully diverse and ever-growing ELL population. Yet there is one number that has made, and will continue to make, all of our efforts remarkably daunting. It is not our poverty rate or our test scores. No, it is the fact that our school is wildly overcrowded. It has been for a few years now. Our school sits at 136% capacity for the 2021-2022 school year. 136% means that when we return to full in-person school next August, our school will host 36 percent more students than we can reasonably hold.

On the page, this number must sound abstract. To me, and to the people I work with, it is concrete. This number affects every decision we make as a school. It lurks in the background of every plan we consider. It makes everything that we do harder.

136% means that there will be 15 teachers on carts next year. That means 15 teachers who do not have a permanent home in the building. 15 teachers who are traveling from class to class each and every period, each and every day. This directly impacts the ability of these teachers to effectively educate students. Every class and every student that is taught by a teacher on a cart begins at a distinct disadvantage.

136% means that almost no teacher is able to use their own classroom during their planning period. We are spread throughout the building scrambling to find a quiet room in which to work.

136% takes a toll on the mental health of our students, faculty, and staff. It is always loud. It is always crowded. I have anxiety during every class change as the crowd of students moving between classes bottlenecks around my room down the stairwell to the first floor. I know that all it would take is one fight at exactly the right moment to cause people to be trampled.

136% will also have a profound effect on the physical health of the students and staff at Moore. If we return, as expected, to school in the fall with no masks, a complete inability to social distance, and no mandate to require a vaccination, coronavirus will spread in our building.

136% capacity means that the caseload of every teacher, counselor, assistant principal, social worker, therapist, cafeteria worker, security guard, and clerk in the building is consistently maxed out. Our class sizes are maddeningly large. As a building we dole out over \$2300 a day in overcap pay related to class size. This translates into 1,211 times *every day* in our building that there are more students than are contractually allowed in classrooms. Teachers routinely have 35 students or more in a class. Though I hope that you are familiar with research related to

class size and its effect on learning, I am going to link some examples [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). There are few more settled research points in education. Class size matters.

136% is sabotaging everything that we do at Moore. No initiative or program at the classroom, department, academy, or school wide level can avoid addressing the cascading effects of our ballooning class size and population issues. There is no break in the day for teachers or students. Every class is maxed out and our students suffer because teachers cannot give them the personalized attention that they need. It is so much easier for a student's mental health, academic standing, and general well being to fall through the cracks. It is simply too crowded to notice everyone, which means many of our students feel invisible.

136% means that APs and counselors spend their days putting out fires: fights, classroom disruptions, mental health breakdowns, panic attacks. 136% exacerbates these problems. Not only because there are more teenagers processing the complex issue of growing up, but because we are throwing so many of them together in such close proximity, many otherwise manageable situations become unmanageable.

136% means our kids literally do not have enough time to eat. The line to get lunch often does not clear until there are only five minutes left until the bell rings to return to class. This is not the fault of our amazing cafeteria staff. They just don't have the time, staffing, or space to feed the students assigned to our building in an efficient manner.

136% means there is no space. For anything. We have cordoned off sections of the Library into classrooms. We are using former broom closets as offices. The teacher's lounge was removed due to a lack of space a few years back. Teachers have had to teach classes from makeshift classrooms in hallways, or crowded in the back of the Library.

136% means that I will continue to watch talented teachers, who I respect, put their names on the transfer list because they cannot cope with 5 classes of 30 plus students day in and day out. It means that the talent drip of teachers out of this building becomes even more pronounced. 136% in the 2021-2022 school year will mean burnout for far too many of my colleagues.

136% means that we are thinking about using our extra stimulus money to bring in trailers to house the students that just don't fit in our building. The message this sends to our students about how they are valued is stark.

136% is remarkably frustrating though because there are high schools like Jeffersontown, Iroquois, and Shawnee that sit at 50 percent or below capacity. This rancles more than anything. Schools are sitting half-empty, while we consider teaching our students in a trailer.

Members of the school board you have the power to fix this. This is within your control. I, and all of the students, teachers, administrators and staff at Moore implore you. Adjust the student assignment plan. Move students to schools where space exists.

Signed,

Benjamin Bush

English and Theater Teacher at Marion C. Moore School

Co-Signed by the following Marion C. Moore School faculty and staff:

Amee Ramsey	Mental Health Practitioner
Amanda Poe	Plant Operator
Mitchell Osborne	ECE Teacher
Caitlyn McClure	Instructional Coach
Jacob Fountain	ECE Teacher
Shannon Vincent	School Clerk
Camilla Karvonen	High School Teacher
Robert Wright	High School Teacher
Kyle Mckune	Middle School Teacher
Michael Hirn	High School Teacher
Karla French	Coordinator for Nutrition Service
Melody Ward	Middle School Teacher
Mike Thomas	High School Teacher
Kentera Obin	Mental Health Practitioner
Susan Fozo	High School Teacher
Ramona Brewer	Mental Health Practitioner
Leah Bryan	High School Teacher
Melissa Mellick	Middle School Teacher
Benjamin Parris	Middle School Teacher
Brennan Pizer	High School Teacher
Scott Adams	School Records Clerk
Christopher Bissinger	ECE Teacher
Amy Chavez	Middle School Teacher
Andrew Glibbery	Middle School Teacher
Cynthia Robinson	High School Teacher
Scott Duthie	High School Teacher
Linda Seewer	Middle School Teacher
Trina Reeves	Middle School Teacher
Crystal Cornelison	High School Teacher
Amy Arndt	High/Middle School Teacher
Megan Eklund	Middle School Teacher
Heidi Blocker	High School Teacher
Rachel Eyckmans	Middle School Teacher
Grace Burgin	High School Teacher
Matthew Whistler	Middle School Teacher

Keith Miller	High School Teacher
Amy Skeeters	High School Teacher
Jenna Newman	Middle School Teacher
Devin Moutardier	Middle School Teacher
Eliza Chase	Middle School Teacher
Sarah Rodgers	Middle School Teacher
Celia Lara-Mulet	High School Teacher
Ashley Piatt	High School Teacher
Tammy Cotton	Receiving Clerk
William Comstock	High School Teacher
Marcella Thompson	School Bookkeeper
Jennifer Luce	Middle School Teacher
Jennifer Druetzler	Middle/High School Teacher
Bryan McIntosh	High School Teacher
Abigail Yeazell	Middle School Teacher
Jeffery O'Brien	High School Teacher
Joseph Burrell	High School Teacher
Julia Mikulek	High School Teacher
Alissa Vogelgesang	High School Teacher
Vernon Bibb	Custodian
Matthew Moore	Custodian
Troy Petrie	High School Teacher
Lauren Schuhmann	Middle School Teacher
Thomas Adams	High School Teacher
Lindsay Sims	High School Teacher
Carol Fields	Middle School Teacher
Basia Szaflarski	High School Teacher
Bert Becker	High School Teacher
Aaron Phelps	High School Teacher
Ana Medina Fernandez	High School Teacher
Rabab Aldhahab	High School Teacher
Tyrone Williams	JR. ROTC Teacher
Stephanie Burnett	Attendance Clerk
Thomas Olges	High School Teacher
Dennis Allison	High School Teacher
Lindsey Thurman	High School Teacher