

Email Address	First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
joanchard@comcast.net	Joan	Chard	Fwd: EDITORIAL Re: "Right-wing legislators sue CCSD Critical Race Theory Claims"	<p>----- Original Message ----- From: Joan Chard <joanchard@comcast.net> To: Editor At Post And Courier <letters@postandcourier.com>, Editor At Moultrie News <editor@moultrienews.com> Date: 12/12/2022 1:02 PM Subject: EDITORIAL Re: "Right-wing legislators sue CCSD Critical Race Theory Claims"</p> <p>(Post & Courier EDITORIAL) (DEFENSE OF CCSD Dec. 8)</p> <p>(Re: Right-wing legislators sue CCSD Critical Race Theory Claims) (Dec. 1) (Maura Turcotte)</p> <hr/> <p>Post & Courier is defending CCSD in conservative Republican lawmakers' SC Freedom Caucus' lawsuit against CCSD for implementing CRT principles in training of teachers and teaching of students..</p> <p>P&C's Maura Turcotte states, "Critical Race Theory is the academic framework that looks at racism embedded in public policy and legal institutions." These ideas include teaching that one race/sex is inherently superior, and that people are inherently oppressive because of their race/sex.</p> <p>The lawsuit focuses on EL Education, that provides curricula and training to schools. EL's website lists Charleston as a partner. An EL employee claims that curriculum has been developed to be "inclusive of culturally relevant teaching." The Caucus claims it is "liberal indoctrination."</p> <p>Representative Adam Morgan of Greenville, Caucus Chairman, said the recording "clearly revealed there are in fact people coming into SC, paid by districts to teach teachers how to incorporate into their classroom the very things that violate state standards/laws."</p> <p>The Editorial agrees that, "South Carolinians would undoubtedly be uncomfortable with EL's belief that everyone is either a racist or an anti-racist who fights against racism by "going beyond awareness to disruption," and uncomfortable with EL's "race-obsessed approach pervading EL's teacher training/lesson plans."</p> <p>The Editorial then does a complete turn-around, concluding, "But a closer look suggests that most of EL's material has nothing to do with race, and is instead the mundane process of teaching kids to read and be excited about learning." If P&C's final opinion were a true fact, there never would have been a lawsuit!</p> <p>Joan Chard</p>
tmcsmile@yahoo.com	Tiffany	Clementi	Question about sanitation/cleaning	<p>Hi,</p> <p>As we all come back to school and COVID and the Flu are on the rise, I am wondering what is the district implementing to make sure the schools are well sanitized, especially the restrooms and cafeteria? I would love us not to go back to masking if at all possible. I think an extra eye on sanitizing would be very helpful in keeping everyone as healthy as possible. I will continue to do my part in not sending my children to school when they are sick. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>A concerned parent</p>

Email Address	First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
jhoward@charlestonrise.org	Jean	Howard	Goals and Guardrails	<p>Board Members,</p> <p>I am very concerned about the Goals and Guardrails that were adopted by the Charleston County School Board. The goals and guardrails developed over months of engagement with the community and the Board of Trustees are to be used as a path toward achieving Vision 2027.</p> <p>This new School Board professes they want to be transparent by listening to parents and the community. But, I have not heard any reference to the Goals and Guardrails that were developed by the previous School Board. The previous Board spent time engaging parents and the community by inviting them to public meetings. These goals were displayed and made public.</p> <p>Goal #1 was : Literacy - The percentage of Black/African American and Hispanic 5th grade students reading on grade level will increase from 25.5% in July 2022 to 60.7% in July 2027 as measured by SC READY ELA.</p> <p>Why have we not heard of any plans or progress regarding this #1 goal? We do not need to see any more data to tell us that there is an achievement gap. That is a fact, not an opinion.</p> <p>Please do not distract from this #1 goal by talking about other issues. Action, plans and acknowledgement of this #1 goal must be addressed by this Board now!!!</p> <p>Jean Howard</p>
mistytwalsh@gmail.com	Misty	Walsh	Issues with agenda items of Policy	<p>Agenda Policy issues</p> <p>A- Visitation for Board members. Allowing anyone to come and go in schools can be problematic. Board members should coordinate with school staff before Board members show up. Additionally, as a parent, I am against any adult having 1 on 1 engagement with my child when they are a stranger to my family. Additionally, I believe the term "engage" in the policy needs to be additionally defined. A stranger walking into a class in the middle of a lesson, is at a minimum distracting. It could be extremely problematic depending on how the Board member engages with the staff, students, and teachers. Board members should be able to only observe in classrooms and schools, not engage. Allowing them to "engage" is overstepping their duties.</p> <p>The Board is also putting in this policy required response times by CCSD staff to questions any Board member may have. The Board is expressing all CCSD staff work directly for them and their requests for information should be addressed in a "standard and reasonable time" yet this time frame is not specifically listed. Yet, later in the policy, it is stated that if there is an issue, the Superintendent should contact the Board to explain why within 24 hours and request a 7-day extension. The Board is unaware of the day-to-day operations of CCSD and are not the authority overall CCSD staff, only the Superintendent. The Superintendent is the ruling authority over the staff. This policy is uncalled for, overreaching and authoritarian.</p> <p>B- Prayer before Board members while a meeting is occurring. While some legal precedent may exist, this policy is very problematic. The chairperson is already able to lead a prayer, or moment of silence, during a public meeting. Making this a policy requires the chairperson to seek out "a local faith leader" whenever "reasonably possible". These terms are not defined. Would wiccans, Voodoo priestesses and Satanists be eligible as a local faith leader? What if the chairperson isn't of faith and feels discriminated by this policy? Since the "prayer" can only be directed toward the Board this should not be policy. If members of the Board wish to hold a prayer, this should be done outside the chamber prior to any public meeting. Even with some legal precedent, it does not exempt the CCSD Board from being sued. This would then cost education dollars to fight.</p> <p>C- Election of Board members to positions on the Board. The policy excludes any elected Board member elected outside of their regular November election from being appointed to positions already filled during a regular election. This, unfairly, discriminates against the newly elected Board member. Appointments and elections of chair and vice chairperson can be held after a regular election so business can be conducted until a new member is elected or appointed. But at such time as a new member is seated, new elections should take place so all members of the Board are able to be elected as Chair or Vice Chairperson. Additionally state law 59-19-70 states "The Trustees shall, as soon as practicable after their appointment of any new trustee, organize by the election of one of their members as chairman".</p> <p>D- Allowing the Board to hire their own council. Currently the Board already has this ability The Board does not have the ability to hire CCSD council only to approve a contract. The Superintendent holds the ability to hire CCSD council. It is also added that any outside council used by CCSD cannot be involved in any public litigation. This is the reason for the council and, again, involves the Board in matters that are not their job. Also, a CCSD parliamentarian should be hired as this position serves the Board as well as all Constituent Boards and directs these Boards to avoid issues that may cause litigation.</p> <p>This board isn't writing policy for all future situations. These new additions aren't needed and are, at times, overstepping their authority.</p>

Email Address	First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
atonm70@gmail.com	Allan	Morris	Policy additions	<p>I have some concerns with the policy additions recommended by the COW. #1: Visitation for Board Members. Engaging with kids in the middle of the day is interfering with their studies, and should only be allowed with prior notice and scheduling. I don't want Board members randomly showing up to school and "engaging" with children. The parameters of engagement should be clearly defined.</p> <p>#2: Prayers before Board meetings: This is completely unnecessary to be forced by rule on everyone in the room. If the Board Chair would like a moment of silent reflection before the meeting, fine, otherwise who is the faith leader going to be? How are we ensuring that all faiths, including lack of faith, are fairly involved in said prayer. This is further and example of overreach and governmental control that was the bedrock of the new council members platforms. Prayer has no place in a school board meeting.</p> <p>#3: Election of Board members to positions on the Board. This policy is unfair to the last remaining board member elected in the Feb 7th special election. The Board should wait until all members are seated before electing Board positions</p> <p>#4: Allowing the Board to hire their own council. The Board does not have the ability to hire CCSD council only to approve a contract. The Superintendent holds the ability to hire CCSD council. It is also added that any outside council used by CCSD cannot be involved in any public litigation. This is the reason for the council and, again, involves the Board in matters that are not their job. Also, a CCSD parliamentarian should be hired as this position serves the Board as well as all Constituent Boards and directs these Boards to avoid issues that may cause litigation.</p>
kim.lee8991@gmail.com	Kimberly	Lee	Policy additions in today's meeting	<p>*visitation for board members- visitation of board members should be coordinated with school staff. Unannounced visits should be prohibited, especially if they are entering a class room. As a parent and past substitute teacher, I know that this is very disruptive to the class and at the very least, will result in the loss of an entire day of lessons. Board members should Not engage with students in class or one on one. I would not want my child approached by a stranger in school! This is not the duty of a school board member! Any information the school board member requests from a teacher or other staff should be submitted to the superintendent and then from there to school staff through the principal. A very ample time should be allowed for the information. School staff are busy teaching our kids. This entire policy change is overreaching in the extreme!</p> <p>*prayer- if someone insists on praying at a school board meeting, all faiths should be represented at every meeting.</p> <p>*outside council- The board already has this ability. Do not involve the board in matters that are not their job!</p> <p>*election of board members to positions on the board- appointments to positions on the board should not be limited to members who are elected during the regular November elections. This is discriminatory policy toward newly elected members. Please note state law 59-19-70.</p>
BCZ101013@GMAIL.COM	Nicole	Brooks	Policy A	<p>Policy A: Strangers, ie. the Board of Trustees should not have the ability to walk into my child's classroom and "engage" with my child. You are strangers, NOT educational professionals enhancing the classroom environment. You will be a distraction at best. Additionally, CCSD employees do not work for you, they work for our children.</p>

Email Address	First Name:	Last Name:	Topic of Comment:	Public Comment:
joanchard@comcast.net	Joan	Chard	Fwd: "Finding Curriculum Content Balance A Necessity For Public School Survival"	<p>----- Original Message ----- From: Joan Chard <joanchard@comcast.net> To: Editor At Post And Courier <letters@postandcourier.com>, "editor@moultrienews.com" <editor@moultrienews.com> Date: 01/06/2023 12:07 PM Subject: "Finding Curriculum Content Balance A Necessity For Public School Survival"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Editor @ Post & Courier Editor @ Moultrie News</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Finding Curriculum Content Balance A Necessity For Public School Survival"</p> <p>As a child, I was fascinated by the ability of the circus tightrope artist's amazing ability to walk on wire, while delicately maneuvering the balance bar to ensure safety.</p> <p>A similar task is the job of educators today in balancing curriculum content, so both opposing viewpoints can be fairly represented.</p> <p>Present-day mindsets consist of completely contrasting agenda devoted to crushing their opponents to achieve victory. However, in destroying the supposed enemy, we also destroy the entire educational process, so everyone loses!</p> <p>The goal for educational leaders should be the same as for tightrope walkers, the goal of safety for the public school system.</p> <p>What does safety mean in its practical application to curriculum content? Opposing sides of "Woke" vs. "Traditionalists" must allow each side the right to hold its opinions.</p> <p>But both sides must modify their "all or nothing" stances to allow adequate instruction of academic knowledge plus sufficient time to study slavery, civil rights and gender issues to instill pride, but not victim-hood.</p> <p>No school subject is exempt, since even English grammar can be completely neglected by time spent in writing assignments for white students to confess supposed guilt for mistreatment of blacks.</p> <p>The question remains of whether both groups continue their "my way or the highway" thinking, or whether they are able to respect each other enough to find and keep that delicate balance of the high-wire artist to avoid the destruction of our American public school system.</p> <p>There is no safety net!!</p> <p>Joan Chard</p>