

Special Committee on Education

To: Special Committee Chair Williams

CC: Vice Chair Baumgardner, Ranking Minority Member Winn and Committee Members

From: Amy Thomas, Private Citizen

Date: December 1, 2021

Subject: Testimony on CRT in Kansas Schools

Testimony:

Special Committee Chair Williams, Vice Chair Baumgardner, Ranking Minority Member Winn and Committee Members, I thank you for the opportunity to be there today to present you evidence that I along with parents throughout the state of Kansas have accumulated that proves that CRT has made its way into our teacher Professional Development and consequently into our classrooms.

I would first like to start off with a definition of Critical Race Theory. Critical Race Theory is not a noun as many have been using it. It is a verb. CRT is the ACTION of a Marxist movement that teaches people to hate America and segregates people into privileged and oppressed. It depicts all white people as racist oppressors and all people of color as victims of oppression.

In Kansas Schools, Critical Race Theory is being ushered in through Deep Equity training and Social Justice Initiatives. I believe my testimony today will provide irrefutable evidence that although the KS State Board of Education & Local School Boards have claimed Critical Race Theory is not being taught in Kansas schools, it is already here and has been here for years.

My first piece of evidence is the School Board Memo from the SMSD School Board to Superintendent Michael Fulton from Dr. Christy Ziegler, Chief of Student Services, Dr. John McKinney, Director of Student & Family Services and Dr. Tyrone Bates, Coordinator of DE&I in SMSD.

The Subject of this memo so to gain "Approval of Corwin Deep Equity Contract for Professional Development". Within this memo the School Board is asking for a 3 year contract to be funded by federal program funds from Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS). The memo describes implementing Deep Equity training for all staff as well as the implementation of Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) program for 100 high school students.

The YES! Program covers the following 5 Steps:

1. Personal Culture/Personal Journey
2. Social Dominance to Social Justice
3. Creative Expression to Creative Resistance
4. Community Awareness to Community Action
5. Stewardship Motion to Listen Up

During the 1st phase, students are expected to explore their own personal experiences on race and differences. Corwin describes this work as being especially eye opening for white people who often do not see themselves as cultural beings. I have included a copy of the YES! Workbook and documentation for your review. This is 100% indoctrination of youth to dividing students into the oppressed and

oppressors. This is the exact definition of CRT. I have also included documentation of accounts payable made from SMSD to Corwin. This is irrefutable evidence that CRT is here in Kansas.

My next series of documents is from Lawrence USD 497 which entails “Anti-Racist Conversations with Families”. Page 5 of this document defines whiteness and states “white dominant culture grants advantages to white people.” It goes on to ask “Who is benefiting? Who is marginalized?” In the worksheet provided you will see “Anti-Racist Responses with the question “How did race play a role in that experience?” This training brings race into every question driving a wedge between white people and all people of color.

The next document titled “From Social Dominance to Social Justice” which is part of the Deep Equity Professional Development training for teachers’ highlights oppression that occurs in multiple areas to include:

- “Male over Female”
- “Whites over other races”
- Christianity over other religions”

This Deep Equity training goes on to list “White Identity Orientations as Ignorance, Judgmental, Hostility & Racist” among other things. All of these are CRT – continually labeling all white people as racist and people of color as victims of oppression. This training goes on to vilify Christianity too.

Next are books being made available to students starting in elementary school in Olathe, Lawrence, Blue Valley and SMSD. The first is the book Stamped which I have provided a picture of the table of contents which are as follows:

1. The Story of the World’s First Racist
2. Puritan Power
3. A different Adam
4. A racist Wunderkind

Page 181 of this book talks about black people being free of white supremacy. The second book is You Be You made available in elementary school that discusses White Privilege, Discrimination as well as Gender and Gender identity.

Next are several documents provided by the Olathe School District on Equity Literacy. The first document is titled “Equity Literacy Institute – Basic Principles for Equity Literacy”, the second is “Equity Literacy for Educators: Definition and Abilities” – this document discusses “oppression related to race”. The next document is titled “Basic Principles for Equity Literacy” and this training states “Redistribution of material, cultural and social access and opportunity eliminating oppressive aspects of institutional culture & examining how practices and programs might advantage some students over others.” The foundation of CRT is embedded into each one of these documents.

Chandler USD 80 also has a YES program and I have included the YES worksheet titled “Systemic Gaps”. In this worksheet you will find “Many of us play out the roles of oppressor and victim without being fully conscious because the oppression itself is ingrained in the systems of our society.” This program for high school students is the very definition of CRT indoctrination and cannot be allowed to continue.

Lastly I would like to quote a Diversity Club Video that was shown to high school students at Blue Valley Southwest. I have clips of the quotes I am provided and would be happy to provide them as requested. This video was a complete missed opportunity to celebrate our growing diversity in Blue Valley. Instead, 2 teachers took it upon themselves to focus on Critical Race Theory topics specifically discussing white dominance and white oppression of people of color. At 2:58 of the first video, Mr. Bishop says the following: "I'd like to invite you to consider who you are. Do you make an effort to understand those who are different than you? If you are Christian, do you respect the beliefs of those who are not? If you identify with the Republican party, how well do you try to understand and empathize with those who identify as Democrat?"

This was extremely offensive to many students in the school and there were students who actually got up and left their classroom to go somewhere they felt safe. It is not okay to ostracize children who are Christian or Republicans and vilify them as intolerant.

The second video is from the same Diversity Club assembly given in May 2021 and this time Mr. Shaw starts his speech off with "White people, are you feeling tired of constantly hearing about racial inequalities in America? Are you exhausted by race feeling a never-ending topic when you are simply trying to live your life? Try the newest treatment – Empathica."

Mr. Swaw's speech was extremely condescending to white students and insinuating they have no empathy for people of color.

I hope that throughout this time we've spent together you will find that sadly CRT has made its way into our schools through teachers who were exposed to this theory in college. No longer is this a collegiate level theory, but it is an indoctrination that is being ushered into our schools through government funding as seen in the SMSD. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration of these facts today. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have.