

STOP THE SCHOOL BOARD & EQUITY OFFICER ACTIVISM

Dear County Residents:

We are writing you in what we regard as an extreme atmosphere of divisiveness. When was the last time you went to your local School Board meeting? If you cannot remember, you may be unaware of some things going on in our public schools. Even if you do not have children in the public schools, you are paying taxes, and those taxes are funding efforts that might surprise you. A group of individuals, led by our School Board President, current Superintendent, and its Chief Equity officer, are using our tax dollars as their own personal slush fund, and not for the purposes of education but rather for extreme activism. Bear in mind that roughly 49% of County tax dollars are budgeted for education. These individuals are creating a toxic environment and justifying it under the guise of racism. They are pushing their agenda under a so-called Equity umbrella and enforcing that agenda right under our noses!

These are just a few situations and policies we know about that have been publicized:

- Paid a contractor \$40,000 under a dubious “Equity Audit” to comb through school policies to find so-called ‘racist’ material or policies that this contractor deems need correcting.
- Paid ~\$60,000 to another contractor, Courageous Conversations, to uncover so-called ‘systemic racism’ in our schools.
- Hired an “Equity officer,” with a salary of \$95,000+, for a position that does not need to exist.
- Sent surveys directly to our children in school asking ‘racism’ questions, bypassing parents.
- Intend to expend an estimated \$200,000+ to rename two schools. We believe there is insufficient grounds for these renaming’s.
- Reduced from 2 to 1 the number of math facilitators at the county level to make way for 2 new ‘Equity’ facilitators who will be paid \$71k each. Consequently, more so-called ‘equity,’ but less Math education. Compare these salaries to a career teacher with over 25 years’ experience and with a

master's degree and National Board Certification who is paid only \$63k a year. But 'Equity' facilitators *start* at \$71k? Is that equitable?

- Passed a resolution asserting that the term "Black Lives Matter" is not political. However, the BLM organization is at the forefront of many current political issues and has a decidedly political and cultural agenda, including promoting socialist economics and defunding law enforcement, and attacking societal norms such as the foundational family unit, sowing division as it goes.
- Used a shallow concept of "Equity" and establishes so-called equity 'solutions' that serve only to divide our kids and indoctrinate them to hate America.
- Bullies and pressures teachers to promote hatred for America.
- Did you know that your children can request that they have their names changed in 'Power School' which is where are our children's grades and class assignments are reported? Did you know that teachers and counselors are held responsible for affirming gender transitions? Did you know that teachers and counselors were told to tell objecting parents that "it's just a nickname"? Did you know there is a 5-page *Gender Support Plan* that encourages affirming gender transition, raises misplaced privacy concerns, and encourage parents to affirm the transition, all potentially interfering with the parent-child relationship in these matters? Did you know that teachers and counselors do not have to talk with the parents at all?
- Colluded via text on voting when communications surrounding voting and decision-making on school matters is supposed to be transparent.
- Created a hostile environment that led to resignations by a Superintendent and two principals, and that continue to create difficulty for any teacher that does not go along with their divisive agenda.
- Created the formation of a separate black student union at Cedar Ridge high school, born out of discussions around the Black Lives Matter movement, that encourages the segregation of these kids from the rest of the student body, and it from them. A safe space to encourage more divisive lies.
- Demeaned the honored American tradition of Columbus Day by replacing it with Indigenous Peoples Day, instead of proposing a different day.

We as concerned parents and taxpayers are imploring you to join our efforts to strongly object to these kinds of activities and tell these radical administrators and school board members to:

Stop the radicalization of our schools!

and

Stop being fiscally irresponsible, at a time when we are adding debt at every level and bloating our budgets!

Tell them to stop!

We and our kids are paying for their personal activism and in the cases of the Equity Officer and Superintendent, their salaries!

Concerned Parents & Citizens of Orange County

School Board Website & Contact Email:

*Please email them at this email address and tell them to stop their activism!
(Note: Your email is public record.)

ocsboardmembers@orange.k12.nc.us

**You must go to the website to request time to speak at the meetings and to get the link to the meeting.

<https://www.orangecountyfirst.com/domain/38>

Next School Board meeting times:

April 26th @ 7 PM

May 10th @ 7 PM

June 14th @ 7 PM