

Anthony Pritchett
November 10th Board Meeting

There pervades an aroma of embarrassment, stemming from both myself, for allowing the board to enable your presentation, and from yourself, the so-called Protectors of American Ideals. It is my impression that this group opposes all actions pertaining to anti-racism, equity and education. I fear for this country if it's core ideals are racism, inequity and ignorance, although groups such as yourself make a strong case for that being true. The shenanigans of your group have done nothing but polarize our community and politicize an issue wholly irrelevant to politics, under the umbrella of a concept that I am not entirely sure your group understands. I will not allow for the boundaries of Critical Race Theory to be pushed to encompass all things of an anti-racist and equity based agenda. The definition of CRT, as defined by Britannica, is as follows:

Critical race theory is an intellectual movement and a framework of legal analysis according to which (1) race is a culturally invented category used to oppress people of colour and (2) the law and legal institutions in the United States are inherently racist insofar as they function to create and maintain social, political, and economic inequalities between white and nonwhite people.

Critical Race Theory most definitely provides a lens in which, when viewed through, society is divided into class and race. This is because society *is* divided into class and race, CRT just happens to acknowledge that. CRT is supposedly drenched in Marxist theory. Simply pulling from the notion of class struggles should not warrant the Marxist label. CRT alludes to the systemic racism within the United State's legal system. It's an advanced and specific course, taught at some universities and law schools across the country, and is rarely presented in high school curriculum. The concept that I believe you have confused for CRT is actually known as skepticism and critical thinking about the country's past. There is actually a specific course already implemented in all high schools across the country that renovates the mind of the child to see this country as the racist, oppressive machine it's been for centuries: US History. The undoings of American virtue, the folly of freedom and the distaste in discrimination has been lectured upon for decades, and will only continue to expand and become increasingly critical until prisons are abolished, amendments ratified, reparations rewarded and pardons granted. That is simple progression, and change is an unstoppable force.

Perhaps the most vulgar feature in your presentation, however, is the campaign against equity. Equity is giving a man with a papercut a bandaid, and a man with cancer chemo. In a perfect world, with a perfect history, equity would not exist.. However, after centuries of oppression, it is now an essential tool in amending the wrongs of the past and bettering our society as a whole. The past has already happened; it's up to us, in the present, to ensure those mistakes are corrected.

As a district, we take even the most insignificant steps towards promoting equity and acknowledging our flaws, and we are swarmed with a response like those so opposed to just the

concept of progression. Our consequence for blinking towards the idea of education and equity is an unprecedented loss of control during a Board Meeting, where the Board meets, and instead handing over OUR meeting to an outside group. How do you think that makes our students of color feel? I would not expect any one of you to know, considering the privilege you have within our system, but I'll give you a hint: not good. There is indisputable, recorded evidence of blatant ignorance and racism on campus, and those are just the incidents on camera. Imagine everything that goes unreported, unheard or unpenalized. This is a matter of student safety, of student well-being, and you're not only opposing our job, as the Board, which is to ensure our students have the best possible learning environment to succeed in, but delaying and degrading our attempts. That is shameful.

This entire endeavor is an exercise in futility, in inefficiency, in strawman and in ignorance. I do sincerely hope you critically rethink your meddlings with our operations, and return next time only if the objective is to advance our education and support for the children.