

March 17, 2021

Capistrano Unified Board of Trustees meeting

Good evening. I am Chalone Warman, a former English teacher who retired in 2009 after teaching in the Capistrano Unified School District for 20 years.

I am requesting that, at next month's Board of Trustees meeting, you postpone approval of the Kindergarten through 12th grade *Cultural Proficiency Curriculum* for a number of reasons.

First and foremost, this is an extraordinarily inappropriate time to add any lessons to the curriculum, particularly lessons about Cultural Proficiency, a topic that is poorly understood and nearly impossible to explain.

Parents and students are distraught over the monstrous impact of COVID restrictions on public education. The District's #1 goal should be to help students attempt to recover a year's worth of lost instruction—not to add questionable curriculum that appears to be politically motivated.

Because of on-line learning, the quality and appropriateness of the CUSD curriculum has never been more carefully scrutinized as parents ask themselves, "How frequently is instruction being supplanted by indoctrination in OUR district?" We know it occurs routinely and unapologetically at the university level, so it is not surprising that parents are now asking, "Is this Cultural Proficiency curriculum a radical ideology bent on indoctrinating our children?" I think so.

I think so because we have evidence of its corrosive effects. It is already being taught in some of the most expensive private schools in the nation, such as Harvard-Westlake in Los Angeles. That school's plan to become an "anti-racist institution" was unveiled last July in a 20-page document, and parents report that it is making their kids fixate on race in ways that strike them as grotesque. One father pointed out that this movement tells his children that America is a bad country and that they bear collective racial guilt. A teacher reported, "I started seeing what was happening to the kids. They are being educated in resentment and fear. It's extremely dangerous."

So I'm asking you, why must our children be subjected to a curriculum that has no track record of success, and why must we do it now?

I urge you to reject this curriculum, or at the very least postpone approval until you and the families in our District have confidence that teaching this curriculum is a good idea.