Berea Board of Education

390 Fair Street

Berea, OH 44017

July 2, 2021

**To: Tracy Wheeler, Superintendent**

**Michael Draves, Assistant Superintendent**

**Berea City School District Board Members**

Dear Tracy, Michael, and BCSD Board Members,

Thank you, Tracy, for the information sent via email. I was able to find the 6/24/21 Cleveland.com article (*“Residents express support for Berea City Schools’ diversity efforts”* by Beth Mlady) where you [Tracy] said BCSD does not (thankfully) plan to introduce Critical Race Theory (CRT) in our schools. Is that also true regarding the 1619 Project?

Concerning the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio (DCNEO) in relation to the 6/21/21 Board meeting, has anyone addressed why socialist terminology and the context thereof, is included throughout their 113-page foundational document? Out of grave concern to what the DCNEO is impressing among our young people, parents need access to the 8th-12th grade survey that was administered this past school year. For example, why were the first few questions about sexual identity and why was the term ‘third gender’ incorporated? What is the purpose and motive behind this?

For $55,000 that went to renew the DCNEO’s contract, perhaps instead, the BMMS restrooms or the Big Creek Elementary playground/blacktop could be refurbished. Or perhaps the funds could be used to provide higher quality lunch food and increased portions (…high schoolers).

A corrupt agenda is infiltrating our schools. It fixates on a constant, hyper-focused concern over sexual identity/orientation. The people behind this effort are trying to normalize LGBTQ. To manipulate our students into believing there are multiple genders, and as the DCNEO website promotes—that we are to use gender-neutral pronouns—is wrong. In the end, that is a disservice to *everyone*. There will *always* be *only two* genders, and the pronouns are thus “he and she.” Enough is enough.

As an aside, I know people of the LGBTQ community. I am always kind and respectful to them. They are people created by God, no matter their color or cultural background. But that doesn’t mean those of us who disagree with their choice, should be endlessly subjected to identity confusion issues. Students who are and who are not LGBTQ should not be led to believe that the LGBTQ lifestyle is ok and that physical self-mutilation is ok. It would behoove the community for the district to please stop incessantly talking about LGBTQ; it’s becoming bizarre. More dignity would be afforded to the LGBTQ community if the school district steps aside. This would empower those who are LGBTQ to independently and privately approach a counselor to sort through their concerns—similar to how anyone generally seeks help for addictions, anger, or trauma issues, for example.

Besides gender issues, there’s been an escalating hyper-focus on race—so much that it’s also becoming bizarre. It’s as if that’s all people ever think about, and any wrongdoing is attributed to racial injustice.

I call it sin.

It’s sin regardless of color because sin is the root of the problem. People need to hear this perspective. For too long, those of us (all colors/all cultures) who hold this view have been sidelined and bombarded with “gender-this" and "race-that.” How I wish Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whom I admire, was alive today; he would be shocked at the state of America’s political and educational climate. Hopefully, BCSD will never approve CRT, which asserts a false premise that all whites are oppressors and all blacks are victims. When that philosophy is promoted, it catalyzes a process to deprive people of their dignity.

America certainly had and still has its problems. But if we can focus on *character* (and love of country) instead of applying a 24-7 sexual identity and racial bias to everything, that would be a great starting point to move forward as a community and as a nation. Perhaps we can finally stop caving to divisive propaganda and partnering with organizations that deceptively seek to harm our country and educational system through the guise of gender identity politics and race.

Paradoxically, the DCNEO projects racial bias toward whites. This is unacceptable. It should prompt BCSD to review the reasons for contracting with this organization.

Do parents realize the DCNEO recommends the following media on their website\*/does the district realize this? Here are some of their media suggestions:

**- Hagerman, Margaret A. (2020)** *White Kids: Growing up with Privilege in a Racially Divided America*

**- New York Times:** *Introducing: Nice White Parents – The New York Times* (nytimes.com)

**- “Disturbing History of the Suburbs”:** *Adam Ruins Everything*

\* <https://www.diversitycenterneo.org/preview-our-programs/>

**Summary of Questions:**

1) Is BCSD planning to incorporate the divisive 1619 Project in the school curriculum?

2) Why are socialist terms included throughout the DCNEO’s 113-page foundational document/pdf?

3) How can parents receive a copy of the 8th-12th grade diversity survey?

4) For what purpose did the DCNEO include the terms ‘sexual identity’ and ‘third gender’ in their survey?

5) Can the DCNEO explain their motives for targeting whites via posting the aforementioned media

recommendations on their website?

6) What is the Board’s response to the purpose of the DCNEO’s biased media recommendations?