

The Record-Courier

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Fear mongering

Some have commented that the recently elected members of the school board did get elected and therefore represent the majority of the community. Others have pointed out that it was hardly a majority of the eligible voters. Regardless, we are where we are. But I would argue that those members were elected because they appealed to the fear tactics put forward by the conservative media many people in the area subscribe to. Those conservative airways are flooded with stories about how horrible diversity, equity and inclusion are; how CRT is being pushed even at the kindergarten and preschool levels; how our daughters risk assault from transgender and LGBTQ students; basically how “liberal” social policies are tearing our society apart. Besides the fact that trying to be more a more inclusive society doesn’t hurt anyone and greatly benefits society as a whole, these stories suggest they’re trying to take XXXX away from the “regular people”. They suggest that things were better before these policies. Well, better for who? For the majority population, for white people, for privileged people? We’re supposed to be a country where everyone, everyone is treated equal. We’ve been striving to meet that goal for almost 250 years.

The media convinces its audience that their way of life is being taken from them, with made up or exaggerated stories that happen where? Do you even know? I don’t believe that it’s here. We’ve already spent school district funding on a study about CRT, that found no CRT theories being pushed in our school, and their response? They didn’t believe it. When the excellent school superintendent implemented State policies for providing unisex bathrooms, he had to go. The excellent law firm we had wouldn’t take the state to court based on the policy, so they had to go. And these board member’s interference in the day to day activities at the schools have driven other excellent employees away – they did not want to see their work environment politicized.

The point I’m trying to make is that these school board members ran on made up or exaggerated issues and are trying to make some kind of name for themselves by fighting the invisible boogymen, rather than insuring our excellent schools system remains excellent. I fear that, over time, this direction will drive away good teachers, administrators and staff. School systems everywhere are short-handed and welcome great employees. So try to get out of your conservative “news” bubble to find out what’s really going on in THIS community. Let’s hope that in this next election, we can elect school board members who are actually interested in students, teachers and staff, and implementing improvements to our schools that will benefit everyone.

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