

Notes from February 22 Education Panel Meeting

Dr. David Childs provided an illuminating presentation on how we are failing American students by providing a narrow curriculum that only includes "other" histories -- women, African American, Native American, etc. -- as sidebars to the fundamental, white, male, Eurocentric narrative.

The goal of his work at NKU is to bring a multi-perspective approach to all curricula (not just history) so that students can engage in collective inquiry about the meaning of history, art, language, social studies, etc. Importantly, the diversity in most American curricula has been watered down in the past generation as political influence at the state level has forced textbook providers to generally conform to the white standard.

Fittingly, Dr. Laura Mitchell wrote an Enquirer OP Ed just today arguing that Black History Month is a fallacy because it implies that the Black experience is separate from the white male European narrative.

- ACTION STEP: reach out to Laura Mitchell to see how Cincinnati could help bring public support for this shift (Kent).
- AD HOC TEAM: Ed Buyniski, Dr. Muse, Deondre Drakeford, Tara Robinson, Dr. Williams, Dr. Childs, Kent Friel

We also discussed how to move forward in our effort to support independent preschool providers. We will proceed on two tracks, both of which need additional conversation with stakeholders before we finalize plans.

1. Offer business advocacy to independent providers. Our first step is to talk with a few additional providers beyond our original four by asking Cincinnati Promise Forward and Chara at CPP which providers might be open to discussing what it would take for them to benefit from such coaching. Bill Muse will also talk to a VP at 4C about the issue, and we will likely engage the African American Chamber and the new version of the Executive Service Center. The key, however, is to learn more about this idea from potential participants.
 2. Facilitate a restorative dialog between independent providers and CPS/ CPP. We know that there are challenges in the relationship between the providers and the two bureaucracies, and our goal is to bring several key providers together with Vera, Chara, and others in the two systems to figure out how to heal the mistrust and build a productive, ongoing, high-trust dialog. However, we need to speak with more providers and CPS/ CPP folks to learn more about the relational situation and what they need for the conversation to work. Ultimately we hope to restore a positive relationship and dialog, amplify the provider voice, and clarify everyone's roles.
- MANY ACTION STEPS TO TAKE -- separate email to go to the team listed below.

- AD HOC TEAM: Stec, Muse, Young, Krug, Williams, Glueck