

5 on 5 Follow-up

Dare County Citizens for Constitutional Rights <DCC4CR@protonmail.com>

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Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your recent 5:5 meeting with members of the Dare County Board of Education. The recent Coastland Times article ([The Coastland Times 11-21-21.pdf \(wsimg.com\)](#)) highlighting some of the subject matter was rather enlightening. Firstly, we would respectfully argue that this is indeed "your fight". The Board of Commissioners has control over Dare County Schools federal funds and annual budget. As such, our elected Commissioners have a shared duty to ensure these funds are used responsibly.

According to the article, Superintendent Farrelly stated that DCS "is not doing universal screening". Yet, in a document published in June 2021 titled 'ESSER Plan Overview' he stated otherwise. Please see page 8. This document has recently disappeared from [www.daretolearn.org](#). We have provided a PDF of the original here ([ESSER Presentation \(wsimg.com\)](#)). The document details the district's plan for ESSER fund spending and specifically highlights SEL universal screening as a part of the package.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act ([Federal Register American Rescue Pla...Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund \(wsimg.com\)](#)) required the district's ESSER plan to be posted publicly. ARP also states that this plan must be reviewed every 6 months (page 11, paragraph 5).

"...An LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months, review and, as appropriate, revise its plan. ...An LEA must seek public input and take such input into account in determining whether to revise its plan and, if it determines revisions are necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan"

It further indicates that broad stakeholder input should inform decisions regarding ESSER fund usage and any plan revisions (page 8, paragraph 8).

"...An LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan. Specifically, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with students; families; school and district administrators..."

We would question whether these ARP Act requirements were fulfilled by DCS in any substantive way. If Superintendent Farrelly has unilaterally revised the original ESSER plan to exclude universal screening, it would seem such changes should be widely disseminated and communicated. This has not occurred.

Furthermore, with the recent passage of SB105, historic education funding paves the way for Catherine Truitt to deliver on the \$3 million dollar plan for statewide Panorama student survey screening ([Microsoft PowerPoint - 2 SBE-DPI Expanded Budget Requests 2021-03-04.pptx \(wsimg.com\)](#)). Barring policy to prevent this in Dare County Schools, it is only a matter of time before students are subjected to emotional screening and data collection.

We would also ask that the Board of Commissioners ensure fidelity to claims that Critical Race Theory is not, and will not be taught in Dare County Schools through formal policy action. Several N.C. counties have been proactive and recently withheld school funding until Board of Education action was taken. Documentation from controversial organizations such as CT3 has already been provided to you. The questions here ([Pew Research Center - Where do you fit in the .pdf \(wsimg.com\)](#)) were part of a recent survey given to DCS 9th grade civics students. This is not conjecture or conspiracy. We are not hostile or uncivil. This is a national conversation. Dare County is not somehow immune from the creep of CRT, revisionist history, and political indoctrination. Action is required.

In the Coastland Times article, Superintendent Farrelly repeats his claim that mandated masking is not tied to ESSER funding. Again, this is a national issue and these are federal funds. We have collectively viewed hours of school board meetings from across the nation. Many school boards have been honest and authentic with their constituents and acknowledged CDC compliance strings and/or state level threats tied to this funding. The ARP Act also acknowledges responsiveness to CDC criteria as a prerequisite to funding. Please see page 11 and footnote 14. ([Federal Register American Rescue Pla...Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund \(wsimg.com\)](#))

"...Each plan must address: Universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g. use of cohorts/podding); handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine...diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities..."

Additionally, a local school board member has publicly stated that they are "contractually bound" to the toolkit. We would like answers as to why our students are still being forced to mask when a growing number of N.C. counties have respected parental choice. The full story on this matter in Dare County Schools clearly has yet to be told.

Lastly, we would like to address recent incendiary comments made by Superintendent Farrelly in an OBX Voice article ([The Outer Banks Voice - 'I want to problem solve'](#)). In an interview that purports a desire to "problem solve," he implies that a group of concerned DCS stakeholders are hostile conspiracy theorists who bear responsibility for low teacher morale. Labeling parents and tax-payers is divisive, unprofessional, and irresponsible. This shameful rhetoric from a public official parrots talking points from the National School Board Association which have been disavowed by the state of North Carolina. We would encourage DCS administrators to refrain from defamatory commentary going forward.

While current Board of Education policy 3210 and the like are supposed to provide a path for oversight on some of these issues...we have completely lost faith in processes that require cooperation from an individual who has been dismissive for months. It is difficult to envision meaningful collaboration or substantive leadership from an individual who has resorted to insulting those who would dare question district materials or policies. Confidence in our elected Board of Education has eroded as well. Emails are routinely forwarded to an unelected subordinate. With respect, Superintendent Farrelly has every incentive to obfuscate. As a result, communication with the Board of Education has been unproductive.

As you must be aware, discontent is growing quickly. As a constituent group, we have conducted hours of research on each of these topics and more. We have the data and the documents. Superintendent Farrelly's glossy presentations have deluded the Board of Education for many months.

We are hopeful that this body will be more discerning and inquisitive. Accountability and confidence in Dare County Schools needs to be restored. We ask you to continue to engage and require policy action and reforms to address these issues.

Respectfully,

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