

*Uncovering The Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR)*

*FAIR is a Cog in the Reformers II Machine Out to Destroy Public Education and More in Douglas County*

by Lloyd Guthrie, February 11, 2022 <https://citlocdemacc.net/>

The May 2020 murder of George Floyd prompted deep introspection across society and around the country. Public schools have been particularly responsive to the need to address issues of educational equity and bias amid America’s deep cultural schism.

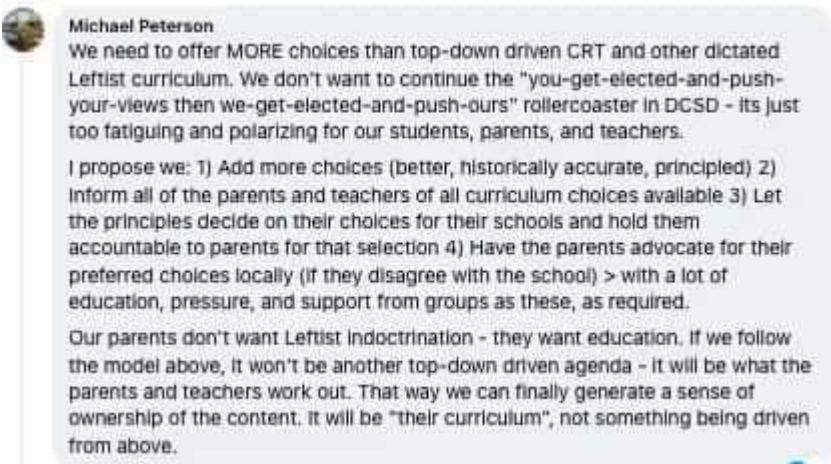
Many local school districts sponsored open community efforts to revitalize internal policies and curriculum, and Douglas County School District (DCSD) was no exception. The DCSD Board approved the current Equity Policy revision in March 2021.<sup>1</sup> In December 2021, after a fitful and delayed start, DCSD started programmatic roll-out of the current Policy.

Around the same time, after a year-long rancorous period highlighted by an abandoned Board recall, four new Board candidates running under the KidsFirst Slate won the November election.<sup>2</sup> Among a set of conservative trigger topics, these candidates promised to review the Equity Policy if elected, and they gained endorsement by the national 1776 Project PAC.<sup>3</sup>

That only twenty-six percent (26%) of eligible Douglas County voters decided the outcome undermines claims that this election indicated a mandate for change.

Nonetheless, moving quickly in the first month, the new majority pulled the District’s Equity Policy to the front burner. And within a matter of a few opaque weeks, and without further input, the new Board majority passed 4-3 a resolution instructing District staff to recommend changes to the Equity Policy no later than September 1, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

For most observers, this effort, along with removal of COVID mask mandates, was preordained. And few believe passage of the resolution will push Equity Policy to the Board’s back burner. After all, local school Equity Policy became entangled with critical race theory (CRT), centerpiece of the national conservative political agenda.<sup>5</sup>



Most recently, in a move that shocked the community, the majority abruptly moved to fire superintendent Corey Wise without cause.<sup>6</sup> At the start of their terms, the majority said they were prepared to work with Wise, despite conservative community criticism of his handling of COVID masking and equity policy.

The decision came after a week of controversy over the handling of Wise’s firing. The three members making up the minority called a public meeting to disclose that the majority had set the termination in motion without their inputs or public discussion, both required under DCSD policy.<sup>7</sup>

A twenty-five-year DCSD veteran, Wise is popular among students, teachers, staff and parents. Wise’s termination and the process has been met with outcry from the community. The day after Wise was fired, about 1,500 teachers staged a “sick-out” and protest that closed school for the day. A few days later, DCSD students walked out of class in protest of Wise’s firing<sup>8</sup>

“Not making it public. Not giving the public a chance to respond. This is not effective government. It will have long-term damage on this district,” stated Board member David Ray during the meeting when Wise was fired.<sup>9</sup>

News of Wise’s firing received national coverage in the New York Time and Washington Post.<sup>10</sup>

**Reformers II – The New Chapter in the DCSD Storybook**

The election of the new DCSD majority produced an immediate and profound turn back to conservative decision-making. As candidates, the new members received full public support and financial backing from the community known as “The Reformers”, the same group fueled by the Koch Network in the past.<sup>11</sup> Campaign donors included a host of players taking full advantage of unlimited contributions – several wealthy locals, GOP, PACs, 527s and independent expenditure committees. ([Exhibit 1](#)) This heavy support was accompanied by great expectations for immediate action by the new Board.

The new DCSD Board majority shows clear signs of moving along a predictable path, and its early agenda is mirrored across the country, influenced by Koch Network forces.<sup>12</sup> That the new DCSD Board majority engaged Mountain State Legal Foundation lawyer William Trachman confirms the influence of the six Koch Network-funded Colorado think tanks associated with State Policy Network.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [School District Defends Equity Policy, Douglas County NewsPress, June 11, 2021](#)  
<sup>2</sup> [Denver, Jeffco and Douglas County School Districts Elect Board Members, Colorado Newsline, Nov 3, 2021](#)  
<sup>3</sup> [Our Endorsed Candidates, 1776 Project, Website, Feb 8 2022](#)  
<sup>4</sup> [Douglas County School Board Votes to Change Equity Policy Over Student Objections, Denver Post Jan 26, 2022](#)  
<sup>5</sup> [Public Education is Facing a Crisis of Epic Proportions, Washington Post, Jan 30, 2022](#)  
<sup>6</sup> [Douglas County School District Board Fires Superintendent Corey Wise in 4-3 vote, Douglas County NewsPress, Feb 4, 2022](#)  
<sup>7</sup> [Douglas County School Board Majority Sought to Oust Superintendent — But Didn’t Tell the Rest of the Board, Members Allege, Denver Post, Jan 31, 2022](#)  
<sup>8</sup> [Douglas County Students Walk out of Class Monday in Protest of School Board, CPR News](#)  
<sup>9</sup> [Ibid, Douglas County NewsPress](#)  
<sup>10</sup> [Conservative-led School Board Fires Superintendent after Allegations of Private Ultimatum, Teacher Protest, Washington Post, Feb 5, 2022](#)  
<sup>11</sup> [Douglas County’s Politically Charged, Voucher-Driven School Board Election Explained, Chalkbeat, Oct 26, 2017](#)  
<sup>12</sup> [DougCo School Board: Koch Group Lost the Battle but Aims to Win the War, The Colorado Independent, Dec 1, 2017](#)  
<sup>13</sup> [Mountain States Legal Foundation, Profile, State Policy Network](#)

Several Front Range school districts – Jefferson, Cherry Creek and Aurora – are on the Koch Network radar. But Douglas County School District has long been key to creating the national showcase coveted by the Koch Network.

The overt presence of outside influence was ratcheted-up several notches, well before the November election when, as candidates, the majority welcomed The Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR) into the DCSD Equity Policy discussion. As detailed in this article, FAIR is another Koch Network project formed to keep the anti-CRT controversy front-and-center.

Based on public and internal communications, conservative Board members in several districts and their supporters, FAIR and the Independent Institute, among others, are engaged in a planful and coordinated effort. In the background, the Koch Network and State Policy Network bring resources and organizing strategies to the game.<sup>14</sup>

**The Koch Network Explained**

The Washington Post, October 16, 2019: <sup>15</sup>

*“The Koch network is the influential assemblage of groups funded by billionaire industrialist Charles Koch and more than 600 wealthy individuals who share his pro-business, anti-regulation view of economics and positions on social policy, such as climate change denial.*

*The focus on K-12 education follows long involvement by the Koch brothers in higher education. As leaders of a conservative movement that believes U.S. higher education is controlled by liberals who indoctrinate young people, they spent as much as an estimated \$100 million on programs at hundreds of colleges and universities that support their views.*

*Now the network says it is going to try to transform K-12 education, though the details are unclear. The Kochs and their allies have long supported the school choice movement, which seeks alternatives to traditional public-school districts as well as the use of public funds for private and religious school education.*

*Here’s the actual political philosophy. Government is bad. Public education must be destroyed for the good of all American citizens in this view.*

*So, the goal is to dismantle the public education system entirely and replace it with a privately run education system, which the operatives in this group believe in a sincere way is better for everybody. Now, whether you agree with that or not as the big question, but we cannot have any doubt, there’s going to be a lot of glossy marketing materials about opportunity, innovation, efficiency. At its core though the network seeks to dismantle the public education system because they see it as destructive. So that is what’s the actual aim of this group. And don’t let them tell you anything different.”*

The longstanding Koch Network agenda to reduce government and institutions such as public education are directly with associated influences on Douglas County’s schools over the past decade. Douglas County is hardly a newcomer to the national spotlight and outside influence on local institutions.<sup>16</sup>

Most locals are unaware that the modern libertarian story started in western Douglas County. In 1954, Robert LeFevre founded the Freedom School “to espouse and spread the libertarian philosophy of freedom from all institutional control and of men’s absolute rights.” <sup>17</sup>

From the Boston College Digication website:

*“In 1964, Charles Koch, a former member of the John Birch Society, was introduced to the Freedom School and immediately captivated by the revisionist version of American history being taught. By 1966, Koch had become so passionate and enthusiastic about the school that he provided major financial support and took an executive and trustee position. The Freedom School played a major role in transforming Charles into an influential libertarian. The knowledge and experience he gained during his time at the school are apparent in his political initiatives”* <sup>18</sup>



**The Big (Lie) Picture - “Tea Party to the 10th Power”**

Across the country, school boards have become caldrons of political positioning, with board members being recalled and meetings devolving into loud confrontation, violence and death threats. In many places, slates of arch-conservative candidates have been elected, most operating under the common ideological set – anti-critical race theory, COVID denying, anti-mask, anti-vaccine.<sup>19</sup>

From Politico, June 23, 2021:

*“Former top aides to President Donald Trump have begun an aggressive push to combat the teaching of critical race theory and capitalize on the issue politically, confident that a backlash will vault them back into power.*

*These officials, including Trump’s former campaign chief and two former budget advisers, have poured money and organizational muscle into the fight. They’ve aided activists who are pushing back against the concept that racism has been systemic to American society and institutions after centuries of slavery and Jim Crow. The immediate goal, two Trump alumni said, is to get legislative language included in a must-pass bill. The larger one is to harness a national movement that could unseat Democrats.*

<sup>14</sup> [State Policy Network, Wikipedia, Feb 8, 2022](#)

<sup>15</sup> [The Koch Network Says It Wants to Remake Public Education. That Means Destroying It, Says the Author of a New Book on the Billionaire Brothers, The Washington Post, October 16, 2019](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Douglas County School Board Races Could Be Nation’s Most Watched, The Colorado Independent, Aug 3, 2017](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Colorado’s Freedom School Preaches Absolute Rights of Individual Man \(1959 original article\), The Harvard Crimson, website, Feb 3, 2022](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Political Dark Money Traced Back to Charles Koch, Hoch, Boston University Digication, Feb 2020](#)

<sup>19</sup> ["Anti-CRT" School Board Candidates are Winning, Axios, Nov 4, 2021](#)



*“This is the Tea Party to the 10th power,” Steve Bannon, Trump’s former adviser who has zeroed in on local school board fights over critical race theory, said in an interview. “This isn’t Q, this is mainstream suburban moms — and a lot of these people aren’t Trump voters. “I look at this and say, ‘Hey, this is how we are going to win.’ I see 50 [House Republican] seats in 2022. Keep this up’. I think you’re going to see a lot more emphasis from Trump on it and DeSantis and others. People who are serious in 2024 and beyond are going to focus on it.”*<sup>20</sup>

**Douglas County School District – History of Outside Influences and Big Money**

Douglas County School District has been in the national spotlight since 2009, when “The Reformers”, passed new policies such as performance pay for teachers, causing many teachers and school staff to leave. A controversial voucher program was offered and before it was enacted, the US Supreme Court heard the case and sent it back to the Colorado Supreme Court to die.<sup>21</sup>

For six years, The Reformers held all seven seats on the board. In 2013, when a group of parents and teachers coalesced to oust the conservatives, the Koch Network-sponsored Americans for Prosperity engaged voters in the Douglas County School District, “which had gone further than any district in the nation to reshape public education into a competitive, free-market enterprise.”<sup>22</sup>

Although the Reformers lost support, and the Board turned over in 2017,<sup>23</sup> the Koch Network has continued to fund The Reformers and school reform programs, eyeing the long game.<sup>24, 25</sup>

Jane Mayer, one of America’s great investigative reporters, has followed and reported extensively on the billionaire influencers, culminating with her mega-expose’, *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*”.<sup>26</sup>

*“This has been a 40-year project that Charles and David Koch have been funding with their vast fortunes to try to change the way Americans think. Another of their greatest accomplishments is in turning Americans against the idea of government being a force for good. It’s not they alone who have done this, but they’ve pushed very hard on it, and public-opinion polls show that Americans’ regard for government has just plummeted in recent years. They’ve also succeeded in many ways in pushing through lawsuits that their donor group has funded. They’ve succeeded in gutting campaign finance laws, so many of the problems we now see in terms of unlimited spending were stirred in the first place by organizations that they’ve helped fund.”*

From Center for Responsive Politics:

*“David Koch’s biggest, most lasting influence is likely to be the system of using nonprofit organizations that often do not need to disclose their donors. The Koch network makes use of Supreme Court rulings, such as the landmark 2010 Citizens United case, that allowed corporations to spend unlimited money. But they also work through organizations that could shield donors from public view. Though they pioneered the effort, they have been widely copied on both sides of the aisle.”*<sup>27</sup>

**Force Public School Austerity, Shift to Charter Schools**

From Jacobin, June 4, 2018: <sup>28</sup>

*“The [Koch Network] austerity and privatization agenda for education goes something like this: impose big tax cuts for corporations and the .01 percent and then use declining tax revenue as a rationale to cut funding for state-funded services like public schools. Because they are underfunded, public schools cannot provide the quality education kids deserve. Then, the right wing criticizes public schools and teachers, saying there is a crisis in education. Finally, the right wing uses this as an opportunity to make changes to the education system that benefit them — including offering privatization as a solution that solves the crisis of underfunding.*

*The key forces driving the austerity and privatization agenda are similar across many states.*

*Billionaire school privatizers. A small web of billionaires — dominated by the Koch brothers and their donor network, as well as the Waltons — have given millions to state politicians who will push their pro-austerity, pro-school privatization agenda. These billionaires lead a coordinated, nationwide movement to apply business principles to education.*

*Regional corporate forces. Major corporations in each state, often from the fossil fuel industry, are key drivers and beneficiaries of the pro-austerity, tax-cutting policies that have gutted school funding — and now they are opposing the teachers trying to fix the mess these corporations created. Many of these corporations also fund and lead charter schools (which can drain funding from traditional public schools), donate to pro-austerity/pro-education privatization school-board candidates, and advocate for policies like increased standardized testing, using inexperienced teachers to cut costs, and outsourcing school functions to private companies.*

*Koch-backed think tanks. A slew of state-level front groups — many tied to the State Policy Network, a national network of think tanks funded by the Kochs, Mercers, Waltons, [Coors, Anschutz,] and other billionaires — serve as a key PR wing for the anti-teacher privatization agenda.”*

**School Austerity in Colorado**

From Jacobin, continued:

*“In Colorado, billionaires Philip Anschutz and Charles Ergen, oil and gas companies, and Wells Fargo avoid taxes to keep schools underfunded, while advocating for privatized education.*

*Out of the forty-four states that levy a corporate income tax, Colorado ranks the third lowest. The state has doled out at least \$732 million in tax subsidies to corporations over the past ten years. The single largest subsidy, worth \$300 million, went to Starwood Property Trust, the*

<sup>20</sup> [‘The Tea Party to the 10th Power’: Trumpworld Bets Big on Critical Race Theory, Politico, June 23, 2021](#)  
<sup>21</sup> [Colorado Supreme Court Strikes Down School Voucher Program, Washington Post, June 29, 2015](#)  
<sup>22</sup> [Kochs vs. Unions in Schools’ Race, Politico, Nov 2, 2013](#)  
<sup>23</sup> [We Kicked the Koch Brothers’ A\\*\\*: How Denver Parents Beat Back Big Money, Charter Schools, Right-Wing Lies, Salon, Nov 15, 2015](#)  
<sup>24</sup> [DougCo School Board: Koch Group Lost the Battle but Aims to Win the War, The Colorado Independent, Dec 1, 2017](#)  
<sup>25</sup> [Colorado’s Not Quite Independent Oversight of Charter Schools, Exposed by CMD, April 7 2016](#)  
<sup>26</sup> [Author Jane Mayer on How the Koch Brothers Have Changed America, RollingStone, Feb, 2016](#)  
<sup>27</sup> [David Koch Leaves Behind Legacy of Dark Money Political Network, Roll Call, Aug 23, 2019](#)  
<sup>28</sup> [Mapping the Movement to Dismantle Public Education, Jacobin, June 4, 2018](#)

*largest commercial mortgage Real Estate Investment Trust in the United States. Starwood is run by billionaire Barry Sternlicht, whose investment empire includes single-family rental homes and Westin Hotels.*

[Note: In 2018, most Colorado voters (53.7%) supported Colorado Amendment 73, a ballot initiative that proposed to fund public education by raising taxes on corporations and people earning more than \$150,000. A 55 percent supermajority vote was required for the approval of this initiative and it failed. The committee backing the initiative raised about \$1.5 million from education advocacy groups and teachers’ unions. Opponents raised about the same amount, mostly from a “dark money” PAC, the Colorado Economic Leadership Fund, conservative education advocacy groups including Ready Colorado, and the Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity-Colorado Issue Committee.]<sup>29</sup>

*The ballot initiative would have certainly ensured that Colorado’s eleven billionaires and other wealthiest residents pay their fair share to fund the state’s public education system. These billionaires include Philip Anschutz, the fossil fuel and real estate billionaire who is worth \$13 billion; Charles Ergen, the DISH Network Chairman who is worth \$13.4 billion; and Kent Thiry, the politically active CEO of DaVita Healthcare. Anschutz and his family have spent hundreds of thousands in campaign contributions to elect state legislators and school-board members, while also financing charter schools in the region, including KIPP: Colorado. Thiry has spent over \$75,500 in school board elections, while DaVita executives have influential positions at organizations including KIPP: Colorado and Colorado Succeeds, an organization for businesses aiming to transform Colorado’s education system.*

*Similarly, to other states on this list, Colorado’s oil and gas industry has played a central role in defunding education. It has successfully campaigned for deregulation and low tax rates, spending more than \$80 million over the past four years to influence ballot initiatives, elections, and public opinion. In 2016, BP won a court ruling that amounted to an estimated \$100 million tax refund to oil and gas companies across the state.*

*Anadarko Petroleum and Noble Energy, the top energy producers in the state, have been major donors to the pro-corporate agenda in Colorado. The two companies have spent over \$22 million combined in campaign contributions — primarily to various pro-business ballot initiatives and Republican candidates — at the state level. Anadarko and Noble are also leaders in several corporate trade organizations, including the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce, and Colorado Concern. These corporate trade groups have advocated for keeping taxes low for corporations and the ultra-wealthy, as well as leaving corporate-tax loopholes intact, while simultaneously promoting education privatization and charter school expansion.*

*Wells Fargo, Colorado’s biggest bank, Xcel Energy, the state’s largest utility, and Molson Coors are also driving forces behind the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry and the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce. Wells Fargo saved \$3.35 billion in taxes last year due to the federal tax-reform bill — even as it avoided paying taxes in Colorado that could help fund public services.*

*The Walton Family also has Colorado ties. Nationally, the Walton Family Foundation has been one of the biggest funders of charter schools and education privatization. The foundation estimates that it has provided startup funds to one out of every four charters in the country. The foundation also funds the State Policy Network (mentioned above). In 2016, it announced a \$1 billion initiative to expand charter school and other choice initiatives even more over five years. In 2016 alone, the Walmart Family Foundation provided \$60,000 to the Colorado League of Charter Schools, \$250,000 to education privatization organization Colorado Succeeds, and at least \$100,000 to KIPP: Colorado.*

*While many of the Waltons live in California and Arkansas, Denver has its very own Walton family heir — Ben Walton, a board member at the Walton Family Foundation. Of course, Walmart is also a major beneficiary of the decades-long strategy to cut corporate taxes.”*

That Douglas County is in the top ten wealthiest US counties has little bearing on support for local schools, given the Koch Network austerity plan. Douglas County School District has higher student-to teacher ratios, lower than average per student funding, and lower teacher pay than similar districts in Colorado. These comparative statistics are particularly unfavorable, given Colorado’s poor showing vs national adjusted averages. Colorado ranks 43 of 51 in per student funding, a gap of more than \$3,000 per student, and is consistently in the bottom ten in most categories.<sup>30</sup> Douglas County spends \$1,000 less than the Colorado average (\$4,000 less than the US average) and ranks 171 of 178 selected districts in the ratio of average household income to per student funding.<sup>31</sup>

The slide at DCSD started during the Reformer period. Counter to logic, the November 2021 DCSD Board elections appeared to reinforce the continuing Koch investment; their sponsored conservatives beat four progressives, ousting two incumbents. TRACER reports show a web of outside money flowing into candidate committees and independent expenditure committees.<sup>32</sup>

[\(See Exhibit 1\)](#)

### **Douglas County Has Been Here Before...The Same Outside Influencers, The Same “Reformers”**

In mid-2021, well before the November Board election, a well-choreographed effort welcomed the outside dark-monied FAIR (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism) to a place at the DCSD Equity discussion.<sup>33</sup>

So, how and why did FAIR land in DougCo?

Tugging at FAIR’s cover unveils the real political objectives. In fact, there is more than ample evidence to show FAIR as another cookie-cutter, Koch Network-style ideological organization – surreptitious, secretive, misinforming, misdirecting, and disciplined to several central themes. <sup>34</sup>

Connecting FAIR with the larger national right-wing agenda isn’t so difficult. FAIR’s real mission isn't the one showing on its website. FAIR is purposefully wrapped in an opaque veneer of slick anti-racism themes wrapped in dozens of photos of people of color.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>29</sup> [Colorado Amendment 73, Tax Increase For Public Education, Has Failed. CPR, Nov 7, 2022](#)

<sup>30</sup> [New News is Bad News: Quality Counts Report Gives Colorado an ‘F’ on School Spending, Great Education Colorado, June 20, 2020](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Most & Least Equitable School Districts in Colorado, Wallet Hub, Aug 4, 2022](#)

<sup>32</sup> [TRACER, Secretary of State Website](#)

<sup>33</sup> CORA: DCSD Staff emails with FAIR staff, June through Dec 2021

<sup>34</sup> [Report: Think Tanks Tied to Kochs, Politico, Nov 13, 2022](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Media’s Anti-Woke Mania Moves Social Justice to the Fringe, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, Nov 17, 2021](#)

<sup>35</sup> [The Fight to Whitewash US History: ‘A Drop of Poison is All you Need’, The Guardian, May 25, 2021](#)



And there is hardly anything novel about FAIR’s structured engagement in Douglas County Schools. FAIR is nothing more than a new label in a series of false-fronts in the assault on public education and curriculum.<sup>36</sup> The aim is clear and continuing - convert public DCSD into charter school production factories for new generations of conservative leaders. And force changes in curriculum to reflect conservative white values.

With the mid-term elections approaching, FAIR has a bigger ideological messenger role in keeping racism and CRT on the local table as a major election issue, working to swing suburban voters this year to elect Trumpists, and enable the takeover of Congress and many other levels of government.

From Media Matters, June 24, 2021:<sup>37</sup>

*“Critical race theory is an academic and legal framework that examines the impact of systemic racism on American society, but it has become conservatives’ latest boogeyman ahead of the 2022 midterms. And while they amplify lies about the academic theory, use it to shut down conversations about race and racism, attempt to scare parents, and promote laws to ban it in schools, they don’t seem to have a clue what the theory actually is and don’t acknowledge that it generally isn’t even taught in K-12 education.*

*The deceptively named Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR). FAIR boasts advisers such as anti-trans writer Abigail Shrier and Christopher Rufo, an anti-civil rights activist who directs the Manhattan Institute's initiative on critical race theory.*<sup>38</sup>

*As driving force behind this scare campaign, Christopher Rufo is a senior fellow at the right-wing Manhattan Institute and frequent Fox News guest who has taken credit for a Trump-era executive order that restricted federal racial sensitivity trainings — an order that President Joe Biden rescinded upon taking office — as well as working with state legislatures to restrict diversity training materials.”*

**FAIR fits the Koch Network Model...Exactly**

*If we have seen one Koch Network sponsored organization, in many respects, we’ve seen them all.*<sup>39</sup>

FAIR operates in the Kock Network sphere, exhibiting the tell-tale characteristics and methodologies associated with hundreds of other Koch Network sponsored advocacy groups.<sup>40</sup> [\(Exhibit 2\)](#)

Founded on March 4, 2021, less than a year ago, FAIR ramped-up to multi-state presence on very short timeframes, showing strong evidence of a pre-existing organizational structure and financial backing. FAIR evolved from a supposed grassroots group of angry parents in New York to a multi-tiered confab promulgating conservative hot buttons. This accelerated process is common in public-facing Koch Network action groups that rely on existing networks.<sup>41</sup>

Publicly, financial backing is funneled through United Charitable, a donor trust non-profit, whose contributors remain anonymous while retaining the ability to direct their resources.<sup>42</sup> This funding method using blind donor trusts was developed by Koch Industries and Koch Foundation and is now the primary method used for funneling dark money into targeted politics, policy and institutions.<sup>43</sup> Because the Koch Network has dozens of these dark funds, FAIR’s exact donor base may never be known. FAIR accepts public donations, although these monies are insufficient to support the scope of FAIR’s activities.

FAIR entered several Colorado school districts with the full conservative agenda, keying on CRT. The organization has posted mission-favorable school curricula and lesson plans, as do other Koch Network education advocacy non-profits.<sup>44</sup>

In conjunction with the typical core educational programs and grassroots arm, FAIR features FAIR Advocacy Fund, to support “pro-human” legislation.<sup>45</sup>

Images and quotes from Martin Luther King are plentiful, although MLK’s messages are misappropriated. The Koch Network has long used misdirection and twisted messaging to exploit minorities.<sup>46</sup> FAIR offers a slick propagandistic communications operation, including website and social media distributions full of misleading photos of people of color and MLK quotes and trigger words that belie the real purpose. Using these same visuals, supporters who “join” FAIR are deluged with multiple daily emails extolling the virtues of FAIR’s fight against intolerance and racism.

FAIR presents its Board of Advisors as a group of racially diverse, high-profile people. However, not one FAIR Advisor is closely associated with the Civil Rights Movement and most have no apparent subject matter expertise in intolerance and racism. Several also happen to serve as advisors to similarly concocted Koch Network advocacy organizations.<sup>47</sup> Many Advisors participate in lectures and podcasts, write books, and attach with conservative ‘think tanks’. Some are employed by these institutes and other conservative entities. An example is Ayaan Hirsi Ali, presented by FAIR as a human rights activist. In 2005, TIME designated her one of the 100 most influential people in the world.<sup>48</sup> Since then, she has been employed by Koch Network-funded think-tanks including The Heritage Foundation and The



<sup>36</sup> [The State Policy Network \(SPN\) is a Web of Right-Wing “Think Tanks” and Tax-Exempt Organizations in 50 States, CMD Sourcewatch, Feb 1, 2022](#)  
<sup>37</sup> [Inside the Right-Wing Echo Chamber's Attempt to Use Facebook to Gin Up Outrage about Critical Race Theory, Media Matters, June 24, 2021](#)  
<sup>38</sup> [How a Conservative Activist Invented the Conflict Over Critical Race Theory, The New Yorker, June 18, 2021](#)  
<sup>39</sup> [Democrats are Losing to Republicans at the State Level, and Badly. Here’s why, Vox, Aug 3, 2016](#)  
<sup>40</sup> [Koch Spent Nearly \\$150 Million in 2020 to Extend His Influence and Promote His Agenda, Exposed by CMD, Nov 29, 2021](#)  
<sup>41</sup> [Ultra-rich Brothers Remaking America for their Benefit, The Mountain Eagle, Sept 19, 2010](#)  
<sup>42</sup> [FAIR Website, 2022](#)  
<sup>43</sup> [Political Groups Should Tell Voters Who They Are, Webster-Kirkwood Times, Jan 17, 2022](#)  
<sup>44</sup> [FAIR Website, 2022](#)  
<sup>45</sup> [FAIR Website, 2022](#)  
<sup>46</sup> [Charles Koch's Affront to MLK: How a Right-Wing Tycoon Got Horribly Confused, Salon, Aug 7, 2014](#)  
<sup>47</sup> [Meet FAIR - The Organization Full of Trump Supporters, Koch Employees and Race Science Promoters, Pinkerite, March 4, 2021](#)  
<sup>48</sup> [Ayann Hirsi Ali, The 2005 Time 100 – Leaders and Revolutionaries, Apr 18, 2005](#)

Cooper Foundation, and has received awards from the Bradley Foundation, among others. Ayaan Hirsi Ali has been heavily criticized for her anti-Islamic stances.<sup>49</sup>

FAIR promotes its “grassroots state chapters” across the country. Chapters are placed in proximity to State Policy Network affiliated think-tanks, which directly influence local policy, and can provide staff and support to the FAIR organization.<sup>50</sup> In Colorado, there are six such “institutes” – Independence Institute, Leadership Program of the Rockies, Mountain States Legal Foundation, Common Sense Institute, Centennial Institute and Steamboat Institute – all funded by the same dark billionaires and charged with the same agenda.<sup>51</sup> These entities have substantial histories building archconservative ideologies in Colorado.

FAIR promotes a network of local chapters in “hot” locales where central themes authored by outsiders can be exploited by FAIR’s effort to integrate into local institutions such as DCSD.

FAIR sponsors local school-based student chapters, staffed by paid “leaders” with connections to the national FAIR program, offering seminars and national meetings.

FAIR provides schools the opportunity to certify as a FAIR School. “A FAIR School will implement training, standards, and curricula that uphold FAIR’s pro-human values and will commit to treating students, teachers and staff with fairness and understanding regardless of their immutable traits or circumstances of their birth. All schools — private, public, charter, religious, secular — are encouraged to apply.”<sup>52</sup>

FAIR pushes the Pledge to identify individuals and gain email addresses for those who may be vulnerable to the message.

FAIR pushes an on-line form for submission of personal stories and incidents that reinforce FAIR’s agenda. These “cases”, often submitted by anonymous contributors, are used as media sound bites intended to trigger outrage in the community.

FAIR offers a legal network for those victimized by “woke” people who are labelled as Marxists, communists and socialist bent on destroying America.<sup>53</sup>

In summary, FAIR is just one of hundreds of Koch-style organizations designed to sway public policy and elections. And FAIR’s local Colorado presence ensures Koch Network influences will be pressed by ideological alliances within politics and institutions.

*Parting Thoughts about Douglas County Reformers II*

Backed by national attention and significant outside resources, the Reformers II effort appears to be well positioned to take-up where the first Reformers failed in conservative Douglas County.

However, a closer look at the shifting demographic make-up of the county, and the increasingly liberal sway in Colorado politics, reveals an environment growing less friendly to extremist ideologies.

Memories of the many downsides associated with The Reformers period never receded in the minds of students, teachers, staff and parents subjected to the move to destroy public education in Douglas County. Many are reactivating resistance, shaking off the dust.

Neither side should expect a quick victory.



<sup>49</sup> [Brandeis University Decides Against Honor for Islam Critic, Alarabiya News, May 20, 2020](#)

<sup>50</sup> [State Policy Network website, 2022](#)

<sup>51</sup> [State Policy Network website, 2022](#)

<sup>52</sup> [Become a FAIR School. Commit to Inclusive, Pro-human Education, FAIR Website, 2022](#)

<sup>53</sup> [FAIR is Establishing a National Network of Attorneys and law firms, FAIR Website, 2022](#)

Summary 2021 TRACER DougCo School Board Election			
Content in this workbook may not represent all sources of Contributions or Expenditures			
2/6/2022			
Candidate Committee Becky Meyers	<a href="#">BECKY4DCSD</a>		\$ 97,264
Candidate Committee Christy Williams	<a href="#">CHRISTY4DCSD</a>		\$ 97,838
Candidate Committee Kaylee Winegar	<a href="#">KAYLEE4DCSD</a>		\$ 97,789
Candidate Committee Mike Peterson	<a href="#">MIKE4DCSD</a>		\$ 100,885
Issue Committee Castle Rock Elections	<a href="#">CASTLE ROCK ELECTIONS</a> (1)		\$ 324,775
Political Committee KidsFirst	<a href="#">KIDS FIRST DCSD</a>		\$ 21,114
Independent Expenditure Committee	<a href="#">READY COLORADO ACTION FUND</a> (2)		\$ 19,012
Independent Expenditure Committee	<a href="#">COLORADO LEAGUE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACTION</a> (3)		\$ 108,765
	-	Total	\$ 867,442
(1) Note: CR Elections. This Issues Committee Initiated by Nate Ormond re DCSD Board Recall; Ormond originally stated he would contribute \$100K of his own money...sources of \$324K are unknown_CCM			
(2) Ready Action	RDP STRATEGIES, vendor (mail, ads)		
(3) CLCS	40 NORTH ADVOCACY, LLC, vendor (prorated) (mail, ads)		

## Exhibit 2 – Koch Web of Organizations

**If we have seen one Koch-style organization, in many respects, we’ve seen them all.**

Through the years, renowned watchdog organizations have investigated dark influencers. There are millions of pages describing the Koch brothers, the Bradley Foundation and others, known as the Koch Network. These reports prove-out great consistency in their modus operandi.

To support this point, let’s shift from FAIR to another Koch-style organization. If we can't uncover deep info about FAIR, a relatively new entity, the most expeditious way to connect the dots is an on-line visit to the watchdog Center for Democracy and Media’s (CMD) wiki expose of FIRE.

[https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Foundation\\_for\\_Individual\\_Rights\\_in\\_Education](https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Foundation_for_Individual_Rights_in_Education)

FIRE - Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), founded in 1999 as a group claiming to defend and sustain individual rights at America's increasingly repressive and partisan colleges and universities. FIRE is one of many well-funded efforts focused on tearing down the institution of liberal higher education.

FIRE has the very same dark money roots and methodologies as FAIR. Think of FAIR and FIRE as twin children of the same dark-money parents. FAIR and FIRE have in common several “advisors” and corporate officers. That is, there are 10+ high profile people directly involved in both organizations.



