



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2021

Statement on the June 22, 2021 Loudoun County School Board Meeting

While I fully support peaceful protests and free speech, I condemn in the strongest terms the disturbing and violent events that occurred at the June 22 Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) School Board meeting.

I attended the meeting to support the board in its equity work and to support the adoption of [Policy 8040: Rights of Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students](#). I was appalled by the behavior and lack of decorum in the audience as speakers attempted to express themselves. The anti-Critical Race Theory (CRT) movement and those opposed to Policy 8040 clearly intended to shut down the meeting. They succeeded. And shamefully, law enforcement intervention was required to clear the room.

Make no mistake, the School Board was well within its rights to close public comment because of the unruly crowd and did so only after repeating the board bylaws (rules of order) and taking at least one recess with warnings to the crowd to find their composure.

Over the past few months, a calculated wave of misguided and dangerous misinformation has circulated in our county, fueling hate speech and action against teaching accurate American history and LCPS equity initiatives, and implementing LCPS Policy 8040.

This does not represent the majority opinion of Loudouners.

These campaigns are sponsored by interest groups like the Family Research Council, Alliance Defending Freedom, The Family Foundation of Virginia, Stand Up Virginia, and Protect Our Kids. And a small contingent of Loudouners are, unfortunately, echoing these sentiments. This damages our county's reputation, which hurts everyone, including businesses, tourism, and our children.

These events only underscore our community's desperate need for further education about systemic racism and the rights of LGBTQ+, transgender and gender-expansive youth, and the need for protective policies like 8040.

While LCPS officials have been clear on this matter several times, it bears repeating that CRT is an academic movement that analyzes the impact of systemic racism in all aspects of society and is taught at college, PHD and law degree-levels of education. It is not being taught in our schools.

We must teach our children our true, if painful, history and encourage them to think critically about the impact of systemic racism on our society. And we must be an inclusive county that honors all identities, races, ethnicities, and religions to ensure that Loudoun welcomes everyone. Teaching history accurately does not teach racism; rather it allows us to learn from the past and work to stand together against racism and bigotry today and in the future.

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