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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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January 4, 2022

David C. Banks
Chancellor, NYC Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks:

At its Full Board meeting December 21 , 2021, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Supporting Anti-Racist Educational Initiatives in NYC Public Schools

1. Whereas, Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a framework used in higher-level university and graduate courses to help students think critically about the impact of historical and present-day racism[1]; and

2. Whereas, the term "critical race theory" is being inaccurately used by some to encompass a wide range of distinctly different topics, including Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CR-SE), ethnic studies, educational equity, social-emotional learning (SEL), cultural awareness, restorative practices, and any discussion of racism in classroom instruction[2]; and

3. Whereas, Critical Race Theory is not being taught in New York City Public Schools;

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SUSTAINING EDUCATION (CR-SE)

4. Whereas, in 2018 the New York State Education Department presented The Culturally Responsive-Sustaining (CR-S) Education Framework to students, teachers, parents, school and district leaders, higher education faculty, community advocates, and policymakers reflects the State's commitment to improving learning results for all students through equitable systems of support for achieving dramatic gains in student outcomes; and
5. Whereas, the CR-SE Framework was designed to educate all students effectively and equitably, as well as provide appropriate supports and services to promote positive student outcomes by providing students with a Welcoming and Affirming Environment, High Expectations, Rigorous Instruction, Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment, and Ongoing Professional Learning for educators[3]; and

[1] https://www.njsba.org/news-publications/school-board-notes/july-27-2021-vol-xlv-no-2/what-you-need-to-know-about-educational-equity-and-critical-race-theory/
[2] https://www.njsba.org/news-publications/school-board-notes/july-27-2021-vol-xlv-no-2/what-you-need-to-know-about-educational-equity-and-critical-race-theory/
[3] http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/culturally-responsive-sustaining-education-framework

6. Whereas, CR-SE encompasses the studies of the historically marginalized students and creates student-centered learning environments that affirm racial, linguistic and cultural identities in a way that is comprehensive across grade levels[4]; and

i.

7. Whereas, despite being formally adopted as policy for the New York City Department of Education on July 31, 2019[5], CR-SE is not being implemented in many schools; and

8. Whereas, there is currently no enforcement of this official policy; and

UNIVERSAL MOSAIC CURRICULUM

9. Whereas, the Universal Mosaic Curriculum is a rigorous, inclusive, affirming, and standards-aligned K-12 English Language Arts and Math curricula, currently in development, that will be available to all schools by fall 2023[6]; and
10. Whereas, the Mosaic Curriculum is being crafted, in part, through continuous community engagement to include the insights and perspectives of students, families, educators, and other stakeholders; and

11. Whereas, the Mosaic Curriculum prioritizes high-quality learning experiences where students both see themselves in the curriculum while practicing and exceeding proficiency in content and applied skills aligned to rigorous learning standards[7]; and
12. Whereas, the Mosaic Curriculum pledges to distribute 9 million new books in the form of classroom libraries that reflect the diversity of all DOE students this fall; and

BRILLIANT NYC

13. Whereas, the Brilliant NYC Blueprint is an educational framework is based on the latest in brain-based and child development research that recognizes the gifts and talents all children bring with them into the classroom and uses an asset based perspective that focuses on student's strengths[8]; and
14. Whereas, kindergarteners will receive a new instruction model based on the latest research in the fall of 2022 when elementary schools will begin implementing an accelerated instructional model in heterogeneous classes; and
15. Whereas, Brilliant NYC will increase the number of schools with accelerated programming from 80 to all 800 elementary schools; and
16. Whereas, the NYC DOE held Community Meetings in every school district for families and community members to learn about and co-construct the Brilliant NYC blueprint[9]; and

A. **Therefore be it resolved**, that Community Board 2 supports the deployment of the Universal Mosaic Curriculum, the Culturally Responsive Education Framework and Brilliant NYC as a path to disrupting the disparate educational outcomes and environments that harm families and students of color, and Black students and families in particular;

B. **Therefore be it resolved**, that Community Board 2 asks that the Mayor of the City of New York and the Department of Education provide schools, educators, students and families all the resources needed to make these initiatives successful, including lowering class size, and creating a toolkit for principals, teachers and school leaders to use to share accurate information about equitable initiatives to families; and

[4] http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/culturally-responsive-sustaining-education-framework
[5] https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-city-set-to-adopt-culturally-responsive-education-in-schools-11564606684
[6] https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/universal-mosaic-curriculum/
[7] https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/universal-mosaic-curriculum/
[8] https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/programs/brilliant-nyc/the-brilliant-nyc-blueprint
[9] https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/programs/brilliant-nyc/brilliant-nyc-citywide-expert-panel

C. **Therefore be it further resolved**, that Community Board 2 asks that the Mayor of the City of New York and the Department of Education to:
   a. Make Universal Mosaic Curriculum, the Culturally Responsive Education Framework and Brilliant NYC mandatory for NYC Public Schools;
   b. Extend community engagement for the Mosaic Curriculum;
   c. Create a supervisory body, made up of stakeholders, to supervise and enforce implementation of each initiative;
   d. Set guidelines for accountability with clear penalties for school administrations that fail to put these initiatives into action.

VOTE: Passed; with 36 Board Members in favor.
1 Against (R. Sanz).

Resources

UNIVERSAL MOSAIC CURRICULUM
Mosaic Website: https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/universal-mosaic-curriculum/
Mosaic Book List: https://company.overdrive.com/k-12-schools/discover-sora/nyc/
Mosaic Book Collections Recommendation Form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqvCvflObRjH6-cJPqD9lXoWmgf0-ZQ34ifa4cE4nTbT8jwg/viewform
Questions about Mosaic: mosaiccurriculum@schools.nyc.gov
Universal Mosaic Curriculum Feedback Form:
https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6609568/Universal-Mosaic-Curriculum-Feedback-Form

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SUSTAINING EDUCATION (CR-SE)
CRSE Framework http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/culturally-responsive-sustaining-education-framework

BRILLIANT NYC
Brilliant NYC Blueprint
https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/programs/brilliant-nyc/the-brilliant-nyc-blueprint

RACHEL POSNER
https://www.facebook.com/Mr-Gs-Learning-Series-100175031692000/
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Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

Mar Fitzgerald, Chair
Equity Race & Justice
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM
c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman

Hon. Katherine Hochul, Governor New York State
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Yuh-Line Niou, NY Assembly Member
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
Hon. Chrisopher Marte, Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member
Hon. Mark Treyger, Council Member
Hon. Helen Rosenthal, Council Member
Kenita Lloyd, NYCDOE Deputy Chancellor of F.A.C.E. and External Affairs
Dr. Danika Rux, (Acting) NYCDOE Deputy Chancellor D1-6
Carolyne V. Quintana, NYCDOE Deputy Chancellor of Teaching and Learning Opportunities
Kelly McGuire, NYCDOE District 2 Superintendent
Vivian Orlen, NYCDOE Superintendent High Schools
Marisol Rosales, NYCDOE Executive Superintendent Manhattan
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Community Education Council District 2