

Why is the school board so silent?

Recently, the associate editor of *The Charlotte Observer*, Fannie Flono, wrote an excellent article, captioned, "Black boys are dying young and need-



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lessly," a very important point that many black scholars have made repetitively and perennially, including this author - promoting ideas that would help to make all of us an authentic, "whole" community.

Moreover, other scholars, community activists and writers, including leaders of the Children's Defense Fund nationally, have linked or correlated these needless deaths, in great measure, to a poor or dysfunctional public school system - the latter also related, in part, to protracted racist oppression-suppression, systemic poverty or stolen black wealth for nearly 400 years. Indeed, I have appeared repeatedly before the CMS board pleading for constructive change in "our" (sic) system of miseducation - all to no avail, as several reconstituted school boards have ignored these pleadings, with the usual treatment of silence.

On May 8, I appeared before the CMS board, with two highly constructive suggestions, supported by scholarly documentation: (1) Pleading that they read my latest book, "Truths My Teacher Never Told Me: An Analysis of History Textbooks And Public Mis-education, With Wholistic Solutions" - offering over 40 "solutions" for our present crisis in education and related links to the larger society; (2) Offering to conduct a professional seminar for the board and top-level staff mem-

bers on this ongoing-protracted-complex crisis which I had documented in this latest book, plus my third book, appropriately entitled "The Crisis and Challenge of Black Mis-education in America: Confronting The Destruction of African People Through Euro-centric Public Schools."

Again, since I have not heard from this recently reconstituted school board - with four ostensibly black members - I am constrained to ask anew, CMS board, why the silence? For clearly, our black children are dying - again needlessly - apparently while this board is conducting business-as-usual, even expressing "frustration" (Tom Tate) over the "slow" academic progress within CMS, with board member Eric Davis saying, "It's not the result I'd hoped for... But let's not be discouraged. Let's learn."

And I say unto them, learn what? Apparently not something new or different, but apparently that which conforms to their usual-biased Eurocentric viewpoints.

Fortunately, our new Superintendent, Heath Morrison, commendably, has suggested that Charlotte needs to have a "courageous conversation" about the role of race in academic success and failure. And yes, it would have to be uniquely "courageous" if it is honest, with accurate historical and present information, illuminated by professional analysis, including African-centered analysis and conclusions, preferably a power-point presentation by this author. Most important, there should be recommended proactive-corrective action, beyond the usual shallow political rhetoric, shameful bureaucratic "tap-

dancing," with a new focus on the system, while continuing-extending the present focus on "disadvantaged" victims, i.e., going far beyond the usual Bouzaunga—the latter "word" as translated in Appendix C in "Truths My Teacher Never Told Me." Indeed, we could find relatively honest people, across ethnic lines, who "the power structure" in this "community" has ignored through pseudo-sophisticated racist tactics. Nonetheless, in conjunction with narratives in all of my books, we should welcome honest perspectives of people like the former model CMS board member, Bob Simmons, as affirmed by a letter that he wrote to the *Observer Forum* (Oct. 29, 2010) to wit:

"First, white suburban parents got the courts to remove the de-segregation order. Then, their school board majority failed to prevent concentrations of poverty and poor performance. Next, they disbanded the Equity Committee and made neighborhood schools a policy priority. Soon, they'll close urban schools and cram more poor minority students into fewer buildings. And they say it's not about race.

Now it appears that only a

new Swann case can prevent them from achieving what Judge Howard Manning has called the "educational genocide" of our most disadvantaged children.

"When will we ever learn?"

Finally, this board and alleged "community" needs to listen to what the dominant majority generally perceives as "the crazy ones," as narrated in a statement by Apple Incorporated - to wit: "Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do."

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