



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on December 22, 2021

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Don't Tread on Parents

Loudoun County, Virginia, has become a household name in the parents' movement against the shortcomings of public education. Not only is the energy and dedication of local mothers and fathers changing the makeup of the local school boards, but it turned the Commonwealth red this past November.

How did that all start? As a result of changes in local school policies in early 2020 that wove divisive Critical Race Theory into school curricula, Loudoun parents started noticing something amiss. Even young children, who are naturally "colorblind," all of a sudden started to view themselves and their peers through a lens of race and doubt their goodness and worth.

Naturally, when an upset kindergartner comes home from school and asks his mom and dad if he is "evil" because he is white, his parents start to worry.

When a second-grade girl comes home and asks if boys can marry boys, and girls marry girls — and if so, she would like to propose to her girlfriend — her parents start wondering where their seven-year-old heard this from.

When a ninth-grader brings home a book from the school library that depicts scenes of graphic underage sex and perversions that would make the Marquis de Sade blush, his parents become outraged.

When a teenage girl gets raped in a school bathroom by a "transgender girl," i.e., a biological boy with mental issues, and the county's superintendent tries to cover it up, even those parents who had thus far remained on the sidelines started wondering, "What if that happened to *my* child?"

Last but not least, when previously healthy children start suffering physically and emotionally due to constant mask wearing, or become uninterested in learning and social interactions, or become increasingly depressed, parents start taking action.

No matter what their beliefs are in regard to the economy, immigration, taxes, or foreign policy, most parents *do* care about their children's well-being.

Among such parents are Elicia Brandy and Cheryl Onderchain, both mothers of three, who want their children to get educated, not indoctrinated. Both came to realize that the local school board was pushing for the latter.

Speaking about their activism earlier this year, they told Fox News that it started last summer, when they began attending school-board meetings and asking the board to reopen schools closed "due to





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COVID.” Parents knew the closures were not justified by the “health emergency,” since schools in COVID hot spots such as New York were quickly reopened after they were closed in March 2020. Loudoun County, in contrast, was spared a high number of COVID infections, yet its students were subject to prolonged distance learning.

This is when the moms learned that the school-board members were more interested in “social justice” than bringing children back to the classrooms five days a week.

“I really believe that our school board has really lost their way,” Brandy said. “For this reason and for adding the parents who want our kids to go back to school to a hit list, but also yes. I don’t want critical theory, not just critical race theory, but critical theory taught in our classrooms.”

The “hit list” Brandy referred to was a list of parents who disagreed with school policies. The information on the list contained their names, addresses, and in some cases even employers’ and spouse’s names.

The list was compiled by a group of current and former teachers and high-profile school administrators called “Anti-Racist Parents of Loudoun County.” One of its members, Jen Durham, called for members to create a list of parents in part so “hackers ... can either shut down their websites or redirect them to pro-[Critical Race Theory]/anti-racist informational webpages.” A criminal investigation has been opened to review the matter. In August, however, the county sheriff’s office announced it found no significant criminal wrongdoing on behalf of the group.

“We started going to school board meetings wanting our children to go back to school,” Brandy explained. “And when we started speaking about that and about critical theory, one of our school board members called for the Parents Against Anti-Racism to rise up and help her and they decided to put together a hit list which called for calling us racists and doxxing us.”

Brandy noted that the parents filed a FOIA request and obtained school documents showing the district paid \$650 per hour for “Critical Race Theory training” from the Equity Collaborative.

“We have presentations from teachers that were sent to us that say ‘Critical Race Theory training,’ books by Ibram X. Kendi, which is required reading in at least one of our high schools. So there’s a lot of misinformation coming from our leadership,” Brandy stated.

Both mothers worked tirelessly to recall the school-board members, and managed to organize more than one thousand volunteers to collect signatures for the recall petitions. Already, one board member resigned after the needed number of signatures was collected, and parents have collected enough signatures to recall four more ultra-liberal members.

Another parent whose numerous emotional speeches at school-board meetings inspired parents across the nation was Brandon Michon. His call to the school board — “Figure it out!” — became a motto of the parents’ movement.

Michon gave one of his first speeches back in January, begging the board to develop and enact a plan that would allow for schools to reopen.

“You should all be fired from your day jobs,” he told the board, “because if your employers knew that you are less efficient than the DMV, you’d be replaced in a heartbeat.”



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Citing the data showing that COVID posed no significant threat to either teachers or students, Michon exploded in rage, yelling that “the garbage workers who pick up my freakin’ trash risk their lives every day more than anyone in this school system!”

Then he demanded, loudly, “Figure it out! Or get off the podium. Because you know what? There are people like me and a lot of other people out there who will gladly take your seat and figure it out. It’s not a high bar. Raise the freakin’ bar!”

Speaking about his frustration with the school board, Michon later explained that the level of its inefficiency and unprofessionalism was enraging. He called on other parents to get involved for the sake of their own children: “Write something. Phone in. Write an e-mail. Try to make some change.”

Like thousands of Virginia parents, Michon was closely following the state’s gubernatorial race and was appalled by Democrat Terry McAuliffe stating that the parents’ concerns about education in the commonwealth were simply part of a “divisive tactic” generated by his Republican opponent, Glenn Youngkin. McAuliffe then infamously claimed, “I don’t think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.”

“I was talking at school boards before I ever knew Glenn Youngkin,” Michon said. “My decision to advocate for a better education for my children has zero to do with the governor’s race. If there wasn’t an election, I’d be saying the exact same things.”

Numerous pundits and observers from left to right said that it was parents who flipped a blue Virginia red. Political freshman Youngkin got 50.6 percent of the vote, compared to 48.7 percent for seasoned politician McAuliffe, in a state that President Biden won by 10 percentage points just one year ago.

People who want future generations to be smart, compassionate, and patriotic must learn the Virginia lesson — that is, that parents, when united, have power. As former Obama aide Stephanie Cutter noted after the Virginia election results were announced, “The one thing that [Democrats] need to make sure of is that Republicans in 2022 don’t become the party of parents.”



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