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### Judge delays ruling on diversity curriculum injunction

By PAUL GONZALEZ, NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER  
December 25, 2018 6:09 AM

Local parents will have to wait a bit longer for a federal judge to decide whether he will prevent Just Communities Central Coast from providing its unconscious-bias training program to the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

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A lawsuit over the program is ongoing.

According to a court order published Friday by United States Central District Court Judge Stephen Wilson, plaintiff Fair Education Santa Barbara Inc. and defendants Just Communities and the school district have agreed to delay the hearing on the plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction to Jan. 28.

Defendants must file their opposition to the motion by Jan. 7.

On Dec. 10, Fair Education SB filed a federal lawsuit alleging six counts of intentional discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion and sex as well as violation of California's laws requiring competitive bidding for government contracts.

In its complaint, Fair Education SB describes itself "a coalition of concerned parents of students in the Santa Barbara Unified School District, all of whom are residents and tax payers within Santa Barbara County."

The nonprofit organization's headquarters is located at 180 Eugenia Place, Suite 220 in Carpinteria, the same address as Gandrud Financial Services Corp., which is owned by Gregory Gandrud.

Mr. Gandrud is a California Republican Party Executive Committee

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member, according to his twitter profile.

Just Communities is a nonprofit organization that "offers cultural competency training to organizational leaders, education seminars for the general public, leadership training institutes for students and teachers, and customized consultation to local agencies for diversity and organizational change initiatives," according to its website.

The plaintiffs claim the training programs provided by Just Communities Central Coast recently adopted by the district are radical, discriminatory and illegal.

The district has paid Just Communities more than \$1 million since 2013 alone, according to the suit.

On Oct. 9, the lawsuit continues, the district renewed its contract with Just Communities for another year at a cost to taxpayers of nearly \$300,000.

A contract agreement submitted in the complaint revealed the school district paid more than \$20,000 for parent equity workshops, nearly \$9,000 for implicit bias training and more than \$150,000 for a Just Communities service called the Institute for Equity in Education.

The institute is a four-day residential class "that helps educators develop a cultural proficiency and equity lens that they can apply in their jobs," according to a description included in a Just Communities document of proposals for the 2018-2019 school year.


Another program called Talking In Class is described by Just Communities as a "3-day program to help bring student voices into conversations and action to improve equity, cultural proficiency, and, ultimately, student outcomes." The 35-student classes are held once a week on campus.

All district high schools, two junior high schools, and one elementary school have conducted Talking in Class programs. The school district paid \$42,255 for that service according to the contract.

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