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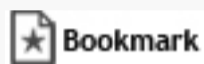
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# Opinions and Letters

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## Letters: Disturbing curriculum

J.W. Burk, Santa Barbara

October 14, 2018 6:22 AM

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There is a dangerous mood that is pervading our community where political opponents are no longer viewed as Americans with differing views, but as enemies to be crushed. A similar mood is now enveloping our Santa Barbara Unified School District, which has hired a group with the innocuous name, "Just Communities Central Coast" (JCCC), to formulate curriculum measures to make our schools more "culturally proficient and equitable," and also to close the "educational achievement gap."

These goals sound vague and tame enough to get a "pass" by the school board, which will pay them a little shy of \$300,000 to do so. But, like so many things, the devil is in the details.

It seems that JCCC will use paid "professionals" from the "Institute for Equity in Education" to educate all our teachers and staff about issues of "diversity, equity and inclusion." Sounds OK, but unfortunately, upon digging a little deeper, a concerned parent-teacher group called Fair Communities Education, Inc. found some disturbing methods that were reported by the Santa Barbara News-Press (Oct. 11) ? disturbing enough to bring a lawsuit. It seems part of the new curriculum suggested by JCCC's "professionals" involve labeling society's oppressors as "white people" and disadvantaged people as "people of color." Fair Communities objects to such labels and the insinuations that white people are innately oppressive. They want a full review of this new curriculum before it is required to be implemented throughout the school district.

Such a review seems warranted given this disturbing finding. A law, assumed and taught in all schools, is the protection, under our Constitution, against discrimination and is a shared principle among all Americans of all skin colors. Let us not label certain children at birth as assumed oppressors and racists, or target groups and victims. Let's never institute such damaging labels upon our youth.

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