

Press Release

Mama Bears of Catawba County
Newton, NC

For Immediate Release

PANORAMA ED CONTRACT TERMINATED BY NC SCHOOL BOARD AFTER PARENTS SPEAK OUT

Newton, NC 12/6/2021

At the Catawba County Board of Education Meeting held on December 6, 2021, the Board of Education members voted unanimously to end the contract with Panorama Ed. Public comment was made by a representative from the Mama Bears of Catawba County organization, with regards to the issue of a contract that Catawba County Schools entered into with Panorama Ed. Panorama Ed is a company that helps schools and districts support student and adult SEL (social emotional learning) with research-backed surveys and actionable data reports, per their website.

The Catawba County school system gave students a survey earlier in the school year for grades K-8 which took the children approximately 30 minutes to take. Questions were raised as to the purpose behind this survey and why K-64, an organization in Catawba County, paid for the surveys to be done. The Mama Bears obtained a copy of this contract and nearly \$38,000 was spent on this one survey.

The Mama Bears organization is very concerned by companies such as Panorama Ed because they are “slipping in” to many school districts across the nation. Many questions on these survey are concerning and parents feel that they are a way of “grooming” children and introducing critical race theory (CRT). Some research into these surveys has revealed questions about how students feel about their bodies, how their friends feel about them, their cultural differences, etc. It is also been revealed that much of this is being conducted during math and takes time away from studies when children should be learning not taking surveys. Much of this survey puts thoughts and ideas into children’s minds when they would otherwise, not be concerned with these issues or ideas. Another concern is what is being done with all of the data collected in these surveys?

The Catawba County Board of Education had a discussion regarding this contract after the public comments at Monday nights meeting. The Superintendent, Dr. Matt Stover, stated that no real helpful data was achieved by the survey’s results. He suggested placing this matter on “hold” for the time being. After the discussion, School Board Member Glen Fulbright made a motion to terminate the contract with Panorama Ed and the Board then voted unanimously that the contract should be terminated. Parents attending the meeting were very relieved that this contract was cancelled for Catawba County school students. They will continue to monitor companies like Panorama Ed to prevent future contracts from being brought into their school district.