The Principles for which we fight

Dr. Yohuru Williams
Network for Public Education
Betsey Goes to Harvard
Now that Betsy DeVos has been confirmed as head of the Department of Education, the writing is on the wall.

Down with Public Schools

Steve Benson / Creators Syndicate, February 2017
THEM RE STRIPPING US OF OUR FLAG,  
OUR MONUMENTS,  
OUR PROUD HERITAGE  
OF WHITE  
DOMINATION! 

BUT WE  
STILL HAVE  
JEFF SESSIONS!
The Promise of Freedom?

“I know extending the promise of freedom and helping students reach their God-given potential is work America’s HBCUs have loved and labored at for 180 years. It's a principle that's encapsulated in a simple, yet profound phrase: "By one's own toil, effort, courage." I know President Felton is familiar with that phrase, but for the rest of us, that is the motto of Wilberforce University in Ohio, the first college to be owned and operated by African Americans in the United States. Those six words outline a clear challenge and mission, not just for Wilberforce students, but for each of us here today, and anyone who is dedicated to the work of educating America's students. It's my sincere hope that it is a challenge we will all live up to, as together, we continue and strengthen the noble work in which you are engaged: "By one's own toil, effort, courage.”

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos' Prepared Remarks at HBCU Congressional Luncheon in Washington, D.C. February 28, 2017
Echoes of the Past

TA-NEHISI COATES
BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME

“This is required reading.” —Toni Morrison

BLACK LIVES MATTER
The Problem: WEB Dubois, The Souls of Black Folks “Of Our Spiritual Strivings (1903)

• “Between me and the other world there is ever an unasked question: unasked by some through feelings of delicacy; by others through the difficulty of rightly framing it. All, nevertheless, flutter round it. They approach me in a half-hesitant sort of way, eye me curiously or compassionately, and then, instead of saying directly, How does it feel to be a problem? they say, I know an excellent colored man in my town; or, I fought at Mechanicsville; or, Do not these Southern outrages make your blood boil? At these I smile, or am interested, or reduce the boiling to a simmer, as the occasion may require. To the real question, How does it feel to be a problem? I answer seldom a word.”
Reconstruction
What the Black Man Wants (1865)

• What shall we do with the Negro?" I have had but one answer from the beginning. Do nothing with us! Your doing with us has already played the mischief with us. Do nothing with us! If the apples will not remain on the tree of their own strength, if they are worm eaten at the core, if they are early ripe and disposed to fall, let them fall! I am not for tying or fastening them on the tree in any way, except by nature's plan, and if they will not stay there, let them fall. And if the Negro cannot stand on his own legs, let him fall also. All I ask is, give him a chance to stand on his own legs! Let him alone! If you see him on his way to school, let him alone, don't disturb him! If you see him going to the dinner table at a hotel, let him go! If you see him going to the ballot- box, let him alone, don't disturb him! [Applause.]
A DeVos Education Reform K-W-L

## K-W-L Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic: ____________________________</th>
<th>What I Know</th>
<th>What I Want to Know</th>
<th>What I Learned</th>
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Clay Bennett, February 3rd, 2017
What do we know?
What do we know?
Alt–Facts in Education

"Miss Pimberton, evidently you've never heard of alternative facts."
Secretary DeVos invoked the words of John F. Kennedy in support of her plan for school choice. “Every time we try to lift a problem from our own shoulders and shift that problem to the hands of the government,” she quoted the late president in defense of her privatizing efforts, “we are sacrificing the liberties of our people.”
“Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' security detail could cost up to $6.54 million from now through the end of September 2018, an Education Department official told POLITICO on Monday. That projected cost is seen as a "high water mark" that the agency doesn't plan to exceed, said spokeswoman Liz Hill.”
We Know we need to fight!
What do we want to know?

Drew Sheneman, “Betsy DeVos is the Education Secretary we deserve,” The Star-Ledger January 28, 2017
“Near the Department of Education, there aren’t many restaurants. But you know what? Food trucks started lining the streets to provide options. Some are better than others, and some are even local restaurants that have added food trucks to their businesses to better meet customers’ needs.

Now, if you visit one of those food trucks instead of a restaurant, do you hate restaurants? Or are you trying to put grocery stores out of business?

No. You are simply making the right choice for you based on your individual needs at that time.

Just as in how you eat, education is not a binary choice. Being for equal access and opportunity — being for choice — is not being against anything.”

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos at Harvard University on Sept. 28.
A Middle School order of Andrew Jackson & Fries

ESP © works well with other established methods for teaching reading and writing. Consider it use with the popular Hamburger model.
False Equivalencies

The Problem We All Live With  Norman Rockwell (1964)

Glenn McCoy depicting Education Secretary Betsy DeVos (2017)
“A year from now we'll look back at the past week as the instance the wheels started to come off the Trump express.”

“Donald Trump: Man of the People Drew Sheneman” July 26, 2015
“I am very proud now that we have a museum on the National Mall where people can learn about Reverend King, so many other things. Frederick Douglass is an example of somebody who’s done an amazing job and is being recognized more and more, I noticed. Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and millions more black Americans who made America what it is today. Big impact.”
College Readiness

- Analyzing Information
- Interpreting Information
- Evaluating Sources
- Reporting findings through oral and written communication
- Making an argument
- Drawing conclusions based on evidence

College graduates looking ahead.
Every time that we try to lift a problem from our own shoulders, and shift that problem to the hands of the government, to the same extent we are sacrificing the liberties of our people.

Those who make peaceful change impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.

The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened.

Today, we need a nation of Minutemen, citizens who are not only prepared to take arms, but citizens who regard the preservation of freedom as the basic purpose of their daily life and who are willing to consciously work and sacrifice for that freedom.

The wave of the future is not the conquest of the world by a single dogmatic creed but the liberation of the diverse energies of free nations and free men.

John F. Kennedy made this statement in 1950 as a young Congressman from Massachusetts.
Betsey Goes to Harvard

• Betsy DeVos said it’s a “badge of honor” to be dubbed the “school choice” Secretary of Education during an address last night at Harvard, where she spoke as students staged a silent protest just feet away from the podium.

• “There are too many kids who are trapped in a school that doesn’t meet their needs,” DeVos said. “There are too many parents who are denied the fundamental right to decide the best way to educate their child ... It’s what makes me so passionate about changing this paradigm once and for all.”

• But changing that system, DeVos insisted, should be up to states and not the federal government and that Washington needs to “get out of the way.”
“And remember, nothing can be accomplished by taking to the streets,” September 6, 1963
Six Degrees of Special Education

- Funding
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Technology
- Transition Planning
- Teacher Licensure
- Placement
The real issues

Report: Ohio has fourth worst racial gap in graduation rates.

Graduation

Family Dysfunction

Poverty

Unemployment

Blacks
Common Core
Common History

Six Shifts in the Common Core Learning Standards

- Balance of Fiction and Nonfiction Text
- Increase in Text Complexity
- Building Knowledge in Disciplines
- Writing Using Text-Based Evidence
- Focus on Academic Vocabulary

"And remember, nothing can be accomplished by taking to the streets."
A Elementary Word Wall
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCSS Core Democratic Values</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life</strong> - Each Citizen has the right to the protection of their life.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Truth</strong> - The government and citizens should not lie.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Pursuit of Happiness</strong> - Each citizen can find happiness in their own way, as long as they do not infringe on the rights of others.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Common Good</strong> - Citizens should work together for the good of all. The government should make laws that are good for everyone.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liberty</strong> - Liberty includes the freedom to believe what you want, freedom to choose your own friends, to express your ideas and opinions in public, the right for people to meet in groups, and the right to have any lawful job or business.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equality</strong> - Everyone should get the same treatment regardless of where their parents or grandparents were born, race, religion, or how much money you have, citizens all have political, social, and economic equality.</td>
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<td><strong>Justice</strong> - All people should be treated fairly in getting advantages and disadvantages of our country. No group or person should be favored.</td>
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<td><strong>Diversity</strong> - Differences in language, race, religion, dress, food, and heritage are not only allowed but accepted as important.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Popular Sovereignty</strong> - The power of the government comes from the people.</td>
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<td><strong>Patriotism</strong> - A devotion to our country and the core democratic values.</td>
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Creative Maladjustment

• “We must never adjust ourselves to economic conditions that take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few.”

“You who are in the field of psychology have given us a great word. It is the word maladjusted. This word is probably used more than any other word in psychology. It is a good word; certainly it is good that in dealing with what the word implies you are declaring that destructive maladjustment should be destroyed. You are saying that all must seek the well-adjusted life in order to avoid neurotic and schizophrenic personalities.”
But on the other hand, I am sure that we will recognize that there are some things in our society, some things in our world, to which we should never be adjusted. There are some things concerning which we must always be maladjusted if we are to be people of good will.

We must never adjust ourselves to racial discrimination and racial segregation. We must never adjust ourselves to religious bigotry. We must never adjust ourselves to economic conditions that take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few. We must never adjust ourselves to the madness of militarism, and the self-defeating effects of physical violence.
Education Activists call to Creative Maladjustment: Our bill of Fights~

• We must never adjust ourselves to secession districts, racial discrimination and re-segregation of our public schools.

• We must never adjust ourselves to religious bigotry.

• We must never adjust ourselves to economic conditions that inform privatization schemes that take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few.

• We must never adjust ourselves to the madness of for profit charters, choice barters and TFA martyrs who in the name of promote the self-defeating effects of physical violence.
Creative Maladjustment
Make America Great Again
A Revolution of Values

- We as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin ... the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered. —Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Jan. 15, 1929—Apr. 4, 1968) from speech at Riverside Church on Apr. 4, 1967 in opposition to the Vietnam War, one year before he was assassinated.
The Alternative
Thank you!

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