

**To:** Feigenbaum, James  
**Cc:** 'jackchiaromonte@optonline.net'; artie kassimis; Sue Haynie; 'stevecolarossi@gmail.com'; Doug Hempstead; Wilms, Friedrich  
**Subject:** RE: Core Knowledge

The Curriculum meeting went very well, and Core Knowledge (CK) was well-received. Generally, CK is well-received by parents and teachers; it is poorly received by union officials, central office bureaucrats, and "multiculturalists".

Guess who spoke up publicly and praised it near the end of the meeting? Bobby Burgess! After the meeting I went over to talk to him, along with a couple of other minority folks. Bruce Morris started in with how inadequate the CK curriculum was because it didn't recognize minorities (it does, top to bottom, and I gave him the curriculum guide which proves it). Then Morris said that 'things like this won't work with African-Americans because of their "unique circumstances"', and that the schools need to focus on 'building pride in their culture as the way to get black kids to learn'.

I responded, 'well, CK schools in New York City are getting good results from black students, so I think that data refutes your theory' (which theory, at base, is something southern crackers would agree with ('everyone but blacks can learn, 'cause blacks are inferior')!). Morris said, 'well, people at the State Dept. of Education are very skeptical about Core Knowledge.' I said 'of course they are, it challenges the establishment orthodoxy that's been running American schools for 30-40 years.' Then I turned to Burgess and said 'how's that establishment approach to education been working out for the black kids you know, Bobby?' He said 'it isn't!' So I turned back to Bruce and smiled and said 'well, then I'd say we have nothing to lose by trying something new, do we?' ☺

So we will keep moving forward with investigating this. The parents and teachers want us to, and if the BoE agrees that this is the way to go and sticks to its guns, the bureaucracy will grudgingly follow.

Mike

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**From:** Feigenbaum, James [mailto:jfeigenbaum@janney.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Lyons, Michael; Lyons, Mike  
**Subject:**

Mike, Curious, how did it go last nite? Well received? Jim F P.S. For what it's worth, I was impressed with the first presentation!

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