

The Courageous Conversations About Our Schools Newsletter | Issue No. 5



Ken's Reflections: Meet our Board of Advisors and our Staff

Two years ago, we launched Courageous Conversations about our Schools. We've now produced over 20 podcast episodes, published a regular newsletter and [BLOG](#), and continue to provide on-the-ground support to a number of educators, parents, and school leaders seeking better ways to collaborate.

I decided it was time to create a formal Advisory Board – people I could lean on for advice about the stories we should be covering, the people we should be interviewing, and the bridging strategies we should be promoting.

It's my great honor to introduce you to the amazing people who agreed to serve in this capacity - a team that includes some of the nation's best minds on conflict and polarization. Several of them have been guests on our podcast, and all of them are deeply committed to our mission: *to create spaces where educators, parents, students, and policymakers can speak from the heart, listen to one another, and*

engage in fruitful conversations that strengthen America's public schools.

I am also eager for you to meet our support staff, two highly talented individuals who have been with me from the start of this project.

[Read Ken's whole BLOG and meet his advisors and staff.](#)

MEET OUR ADVISORY BOARD

Tune into our latest podcast episodes 🎧

Since 2020, nearly 20 states have passed laws restricting classroom discussions of "divisive concepts" or anything that might cause students discomfort or anguish. This has sparked a national debate over free speech and how students should learn about history, civics, current events, or gender and sexual identity.



Do discomfort, anguish, and divisive concepts belong in the classroom? A conversation about free speech in public schools (Ep. 22)

In this episode, Ken and his guests—a Yale senior and two University professors—discuss the impact of these new restrictions and the importance of ensuring that students feel free to share their views in class, even if they are unpopular.

[LISTEN TO EPISODE 22](#)

Courageous Conversations in Action

Ken Futernick was featured recently on two popular podcasts: [EdSurge](#) with host Jeff Young and [Outrage Overload](#) with host David Beckemeyer. In both conversations, Ken explains how toxic polarization and the "outrage industry" are stoking the fires of the destructive divides affecting our schools, our local communities, and our families.

Ken also describes strategies that can foster empathy and understanding and can even de-fuse the kind of unhealthy conflicts whose only beneficiaries are "conflict entrepreneurs" - people who promote conflict for conflict's sake.



[LISTEN](#)



LISTEN

What We're Reading

We've added a [new resource](#) on our website—an expanding, searchable archive of current articles, books, research, and reports about the issues we're covering. We recommend that you check out an item we just added to the archive: the Kentucky Student Voice Team's [latest report](#) on racial diversity and inclusion in school.

TIME TO TALK

Kentucky Student Voice Team's Qualitative Study of Students' Perspectives on Diversity and Representation in their Classrooms.



[READ MORE STORIES LIKE THIS](#)

Quote of the Month

“Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress.” ~ *Mahatma Gandhi*

Recent Accolades



We're honored! Goodpods includes us in their Top 10 Communication Podcasts and Top 100 in Politics; we've landed on Amazon Music's list of "Hidden Gems"; and PlayPodcast.net selected us as a "Must-Listen Podcast for Educators in 2023."

→📱 **Let's Amplify the Conversation!**

Follow us on social media and forward this message to bring your colleagues into the fold.



Educated Unified, Founded by Ken Futernick, Placerville, CA

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