

Hayden: He This is Hayden Robert Diaz class of 2023 with Franklin Pierce high school located in Tacoma WA I am currently interviewing

Aaron: Aaron Powell also class of 2023 in Tacoma WA that Franklin Pierce

Hayden: to build perspective on the people who might be looking at this for historical context what is your ethnicity

Aaron: I am African American right and

Hayden: in your four years at FP and kind of that transition to middle school to high school what have you really been apart of like activities clubs that kind of thing

Aaron: well I tried to expand my horizon and did my toes and a lot of different things I tried tennis for the first time ever I did I was I'm in the I'm currently in the equity team which is a team of people of color that kind of come together to try to like add diversity and culture to the school and ways that isn't racist I am in track currently I'm really enjoying it but instead of running like I normally do I've been throwing and it's surprisingly fun and I would definitely recommend it to a lot of other people

Hayden: what really struck sorry what really interested me was that you mentioned that you're part of the equity team and being part of the equity team you must be really like like emerged in like political almost side of like FP culture so like what kind of issues are we really tackling here you know like what what would the people looking back on are kind of like school years they like the class swinging three would really might enjoy knowing or like wanna know

Aaron: they'll definitely want to know like the change in the effort that we put into the school and like cause like future generations are gonna look back and be like wow I can't believe I want them to look back and be like wow I can't believe the school was like this I'm so glad it's like this now and it's sense of there's cultural representation so like a mural of a native tribe leader or more explaining in history not just Martin the king Malcolm X Harriet Tubman you know like more elaboration into and just like as well as like other black heroes aren't just like the obvious ones and other native heroes or just native heroes in general because we don't really hear much about Native Americans in history class like at all besides all they were colonized by that one white guy you know just the end that's really and they suffered a lot and yeah that's pretty much

Hayden: it you saying that really makes me think I think like I can't really name any native person like just on first name basis besides like sacajawea right and I don't feel like that's really fair and

Aaron: I mean like and then I don't know sometimes the teachers won't name names but you know who you are sometimes the teachers will like try to attack us and be like oh why don't you know about this game of heroes that we're honoring this month and they try to like guilt us but I'm like it's your job to teach us this stuff and so you can't really be mad at us if we don't know it because you're supposed to be the one teaching us like you're the teacher so like you know you're responsible for that whole subject

Hayden: very interesting with that said I feel like what are the changes that we need to make to have the school have that cultural cultural representation that you guys are fighting for

Aaron: well I mean like it's not like major changes like oh take out this entire curriculum or take down this whole building it's more like the small subtle changes like I mean you can't really help this it's more

like it just seems to happen naturally but like more diversity among the teachers like instead of just having like Hispanic and white teachers because that's pretty much almost all of our kids right there has like no black teachers and Asian teachers and native teachers you know stuff like that because I've noticed personally that like the more teachers you have more often than not the teachers would go off subject and talk about like important things like I remember this one teacher had named Mr. Peterson even though he was white he taught me a lot about like the African slave trade and but keep in mind this all of this is like not even on the curriculum but you talking about the African slave trade and the African kings and all the stuff that happened over there and I like I actually like took something from it instead of just the whole classic right Donna notebook writing down notes memorize it then take on the test it was like whoa I didn't even know this and I would have not have known this because this is even on the curriculum so just like more more in depth with the teaching not just like bare bones surface stuff

Hayden: I was there with Mr. Peterson said this it happened to be black history month i wonder do you feel like with all these months that we represent then like Native American History Month and like Black History Month do you think those would be the times to really be teaching us these kinds of histories that are kind of like hidden almost or maybe just not talked about skip

Aaron: yeah I wanna say yes in a sense of like like just forget Malcolm X and MLK for a second like if you really like if I were to walk into a freshman right now and like name a black hero that isn't mushy that came or Malcolm X oh they probably do you don't even know who Malcolm X is to be honest with you because I've never heard a single teacher talking about Malcolm X unless I bring it up and and like it would just be better if instead when we have like the little like it was just always marked into the king day and instead of like including all the cause there was like way way way more people than just MLK that freed the slaves and help that movement there was hundreds of black people that we don't talk about and hundreds of other people we don't talk about just because they weren't like as important as mother the king is is like the the feeling that I'm getting when that's basically all we talk about you know just like teach us more about our history because you feel others deserve it I feel like and are important enough right that they need it that they need like they like I'm pretty sure there was a lot of other people that I could Google right now that did things equal to or at least at least a little bit better than Martin Luther King because he didn't start and end the movement by himself there was a whole what is the was it a whole army of people marching with them let's hear about the army let's talk about the army with the army do how how is their lives how is how their kids doing you know stuff like that

Hayden: I totally understand where you coming from especially like me being like Puerto Rican like I never even hear about like Puerto ricans ever right in our curriculum and I feel like it makes me personally feel like I'm almost not a part of history right you know what I mean like I don't know if you get that same feeling when you only have like a few people representing you almost in a sense but but the only things I've ever gotten are usually stuff I've searched on my own

Aaron: or like Cesar Chavez or if you bring it up yeah you know and you ask about like what are some like Hispanic leaders in history right like I don't feel like I should have to dig for those questions right they should just be like available just in general you know I feel like the schools just need to teach the kids the bare bone necessities of their culture and because most of the time let's be honest with said we're hearing about white people George Washington Abraham Lincoln all the slave owners the KKK literally all of Texas and history no all of the South in history you know all those just white people you know like let's let's hear more about the people that aren't talked about like like the Asian community I don't really hear nothing about those people in history books like all we got was Pearl Harbor and the

concentration camps that's that's it but even in those instances I don't even feel like there was any leaders right there was no one notable like was there changes that they were fighting for during being oppressed like who were leading these changes like we don't we don't really hear about all we hear is ohh Hitler concentration camps and then yeah there was no one like ohh there was ohh no Tony he was leading the Asians to a better place he was giving speeches and poems and he was giving hope we don't hear any of that all heroes just oh they suffer just like the Native Americans they suffered no

Hayden: I completely agree and

Aaron: I would also like to see those changes here at FP thank you for having me on the show the  
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