

Submitted to Envisioning a Just Pittsburgh

Towards Root Cause Inquiry: A Poetic Muse for the Equity Advisory Panel (EAP) Part 2.

They have given from the hands that keep giving. Their stride is benevolent; they love and fight for Black children.

Given from the core of their servitude, a muse for them so the legacy isn't misconstrued.

Mobilized and actualized from the matrilineal core; benevolent ancestor enshrined~ Barbara Sizemore.

They have protested, contested, objected, and lamented, for over three decades and they are not done with it.

They identified the prism; and its source was inherently Black Womanism. You see, they showed up in contestation, for failure being associated with Black children.

Their phenomena remains iterative; its substance is derived from the native; their vision is inherently creative.

Sites of detestation, the Black child they argued experienced discrimination, they refused to fall from intimidation, and stood tall to face the institution.

What we mean when we say grassroots, is the armor consisted of lawsuits, consent decrees for the deaf-mutes, quintessentially it was giving Black roots.

Protest art was one of the firsts, encircling the Board of Education was a hearse, to metaphorize that it hurts, when Black children don't get what they deserve.

Advocates for African American Children, founded by a group of Black women, joined by Black men for Black children, in protest of the pipeline from school to prison.

When they voice that the struggle continues, cause' it was written from the perspective and purview, of ancestral cries that whisper, "I'll show you, but caution this requires much of you.

The struggle transformed affairs in 1992; Afrocentricity was in reach and in clear view; amassed were Black people in coco hue~ so protective of our babies like mothers do.

Say district, they knew they had to humble you; discern if you could heed and shift the point of view, that failure associated with Black children was too callous to uphold the pillars of educational institutes!

So they invoked Ruby Bridges for guidance too, light a candle for Lamumba; Shaka Zulu too~Anansi the Spider, Nguzo Saba too~Margaret Milliones, Sojourner Truth, and Nkrumah too; like a phoenix on the horizon they descended on you~singing to Watoto we are here for you.

Recommendations from the think tank to inspire you~ fighting for the freedom of Pittsburgh Public Schools, whose history began in segregation too, Black children separate doors when they came to school.

Mama Tamanika and Chair Henderson you, Mwalimu Osei and Dr. Holley too, Dr. Stewart and Elder Thompkins this one's for you; raised me up in the system I give back to you; unequivocally please know that I look up to.

Honor you and show how much I care for you, now I'm at your service in my negritude; may the archives be invoked so they remember you~as you fought for our babies I rise up for you; what you gave to the struggle is unforgettable.

Recommended Black Psychologists as a conduit too, healing the children because you knew, Molefi Asante, Ama Mazama too; Kafele, Jabari, and ASALH too, that discernment came from the hearts of you, and I apologize they don't show more gratitude and care for you.

So what more can be said to show our gratitude? Your legacy is sky bound look at your fortitude, your persistence and resistance in the altitude, Dr. Sizemore smiling down and is proud of you.

Advocates for African American Children I embellish you, with synonyms and bouquets of Flowers for each of you, your embodiment of Ubuntu is quintessential you, and the periphery is surrounded when you call us to, fight for the young ones in the likes of you, working hard to make sure we build these Freedom Schools, you asked us to.

Happy Anniversary season, thirty plus years from you, the Bendera there is waving to honor you, the archives will be preserved; activated on behalf of each of you, Aluta Continua we say for you, Si Se Puede, Yes We Will it is inevitable.

