

Wildkit Way Podcast: Season 1, Episode 4.1

Announcer:

Welcome to The Wildkit Way, a podcast that gives the mic to Dr. Marcus Campbell, the superintendent of Evanston Township High School. Join us on this audio journey as Dr. Campbell shares his stories and insights and has honest, real conversations with people who make ETHS and our community the incredible place it is.

We continue to read about, see and experience violence around the country and in our communities. In a special two-part episode of The Wildkit Way, ETHS Superintendent Marcus Campbell is joined by Ganae McAlpin-Toney, the ETHS Director of Equity, and Calvin Terrell, a motivational speaker and founder of the Social Centric Institute. The three of them sit down to discuss the culture of violence in our society and how we can address it. Let's begin.

Marcus Campbell:

All right. Welcome, eTown. This is Dr. Campbell with another installment of the Wildkit Way podcast, and I am here joined with Ganae McAlpin-Toney, who has been with ETHS for about, roughly about 13 years, right, Ganae? History teacher extraordinaire, equity leader, and now our brand new equity director here at Evanston Township High School. And she's rocking it. And we're also joined with our friend. And I don't even want to call you an extended family member Calvin, but Calvin Terrell, who has been teaching our kids, our students and our staff to be warriors for the last, at least 10 years, Calvin. Right? At least a decade.

Calvin Terrell:

At least a decade, at least. <Laugh>.

Marcus Campbell:

So Calvin and Ganae are joining me today to have a conversation about a lot of things. It's going to center a discussion about safety but also equity and just being able to name that and talk through that. So we're gonna just jump in and get started. And we talk about school safety. Calvin and Ganae, a top priority right now in the United States with the record number of just violent occurrences and happening in schools and in grocery stores, and so many sacred spaces. But we also are holding that up with the kind of state violence that happens against people of color. Most recently, Tyre Nichols. So Calvin, Ganae, how are you all thinking about safety, especially it relates to the tension of policing and what is happening in communities of color. How are we, how are you all thinking about those topics? Calvin, you want to start with you?

Calvin Terrell:

Yeah, yeah, I'll jump right in. So whenever physical violence occurs, and when I say physical violence, that's something that's harm or trauma to something that can be measured or perceived by the animal census, something that can be seen, heard, tasted, touched, smelled, if you will. So that of course, is, you know, shooting, stabbing but that's also a damage to an environment. It's a physical damage to a space, if you will. I think we have to first define physical violence as a symptom of other violences, and that violence is, is the opposite or an

Yeah, so we talked a lot about West Africa, but the biggest thing we talked about was manifesting positive thinking, making sure that your actions really connect to your words and just being a person of dignity and a person of integrity. And not just talking about stuff, but actually putting work behind what you w

there's a sort of a synthesis of that. And the concept of governance, and not necessarily government, but governance, how a system is, systems are governed, and schools are, systems have been historically systems of art, religion, and scientists, right? And so even in places of worship, even in industry and whatnot, it's all been mentally violent. It's all been violent to the earth, it's all been emotionally violent for centuries. And so this process, what Ganae was just talking about, is almost a re-indigenizing of ourselves. A reconnection with our reality of the planet, our interdependence with each other as a human race, our interdependence with each other across lines of difference and how we need each other. A violent mind is inherently kind of sociopathic. It's selfish. It does what it wants. You know, if you work with a toddler, they're borderline sociopaths, right? They'll knock you across the head with a hammer. But a toddler needs education on how to share and how to, you know, say, I'm sorry and thank you. And you know, enter spaces. And so as a society, we're very spiritually, mentally, emotionally immature. We're about hoarding power. That's a violent mindset. And now it's manifesting physically in these spaces that have been historically physically safe, but holistically violent in other ways. You know, when a school shooting happens in someplace affluen

Revolution. And so we don't trust government, we don't trust anything. So that's why we are such a weapon-oriented culture because we don't trust.

Announcer:

Marcus Campbell, Ganae McAlpin-Toney and Calvin Terrell will pick up their conversation on the culture of violence in our society and discuss what it means to feel safe in the second part of this special podcast episode. As always, be sure to stay connected to the Wildkit way by subscribing to it wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts, including Apple, Spotify, and Google. Thank you for listening. This is the Wildkit Way.