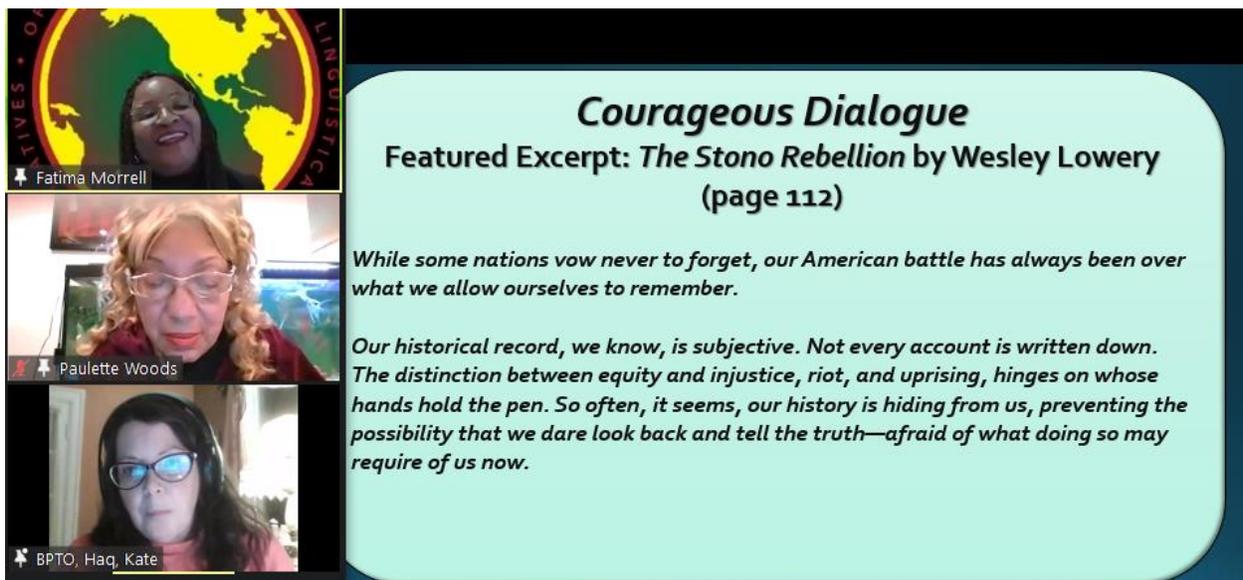


On Thursday, December 9th, the Office of CLRI facilitated the second session of the CLRI Book Club, featuring the book, ***Four Hundred Souls***, edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. This book covers the 400 year history of African Americans, beginning with their arrival in 1619 and leading up to present day issues. Throughout the session, participants were deeply engaged in courageous discussions focusing on themes of resistance, struggle, and hope. Time was provided in the session for participants to make connections with their own lived experiences and current racial issues impacting Americans, specifically those of marginalized groups. As participants analyzed excerpts from the readings, many reflected upon their own learnings of American history, with such statements as:

- “Revisionist history has been a staple of the American story--we're afraid to question things or sit with things that make us feel uncomfortable.”
- “This goes back to who has historically ‘held the pen.’ When those in power rebel, it's a revolution. When it's those who have been labeled inferior and powerless, it's just an uprising or rebellion.”



The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, there are three video thumbnails of participants: Fatima Morrell, Paulette Woods, and BPTO, Haq, Kate. On the right, there is a large light blue text box with a dark blue background. The text box contains the following content:

Courageous Dialogue
Featured Excerpt: *The Stono Rebellion* by Wesley Lowery (page 112)

While some nations vow never to forget, our American battle has always been over what we allow ourselves to remember.

Our historical record, we know, is subjective. Not every account is written down. The distinction between equity and injustice, riot, and uprising, hinges on whose hands hold the pen. So often, it seems, our history is hiding from us, preventing the possibility that we dare look back and tell the truth—afraid of what doing so may require of us now.

In regard to the impact of this session, participants responded to the question, *As a District stakeholder, how will you tell the TRUE history of America, while also centering on stories of hope and triumph?*

- “Teaching my students to have their own voice and how to be comfortable with uncomfortable topics.”
- “I think this highlights the importance of the oral history. Remembering the stories from generation to generation and sharing them. Before there was the written word, there was the spoken word.”
- “While it can be time consuming, it requires us to look for the untold stories when we are teaching history and national achievement.”

We deeply appreciate the words of wisdom imparted by our esteemed Board member, Mrs. Paulette Woods who provided such strong personal insights, and Dr. Kate Haq, our well informed BPTO parent leader. The Office of CLRI looks forward to the next session, which will be held on January 20, 2022!