

VEA Update



Solidarity Event

VEA was proud to participate in the statewide day of action for black lives this past Friday. **Over 200**

educators, community members and their families joined us at the corner of East Mill Plain Boulevard and East Reserve Street to wave signs in support of the Black Lives Matter and Black Lives Matter in School movements! Others participated by driving by, posting on social media, and sharing photos from home with VEA! Ours was one of three [educator-organized events](#) held along Mill Plain in solidarity with students, families, and members of color.



We are grateful to the VEA Equity Team and Executive Board for coordinating the event and to the many members who

reached out in advance to encourage VEA action!

As educators, we are charged to lead with practices that promote [anti-racism](#). Thank you all for your commitment to racial and social justice for our students, colleagues, and community!



VEA Reopening School Survey

Thanks to those who have already responded to our [VEA Reopening Schools Survey!](#) **If you haven't yet, thank you for doing so by Friday, June 19th at 4 PM.**

We will take your responses from the WEA survey along with this more detailed information to gain a better understanding for advocacy on your behalf. Your feedback will help guide subsequent agreements around the new model. All responses will remain confidential.

School Board Invitation

You will recall, in addition to VPS' announcement of an [Equity Initiative](#), the VEA Equity Team and Executive Board also presented a [CALL FOR RACIAL JUSTICE](#) in VPS to our School Board Directors and Superintendent Webb. We are excited to report that, in response, **VPS School Board President Wendy Smith has invited VEA leadership to share our Call for Racial Justice at the upcoming Board Retreat on Tuesday, June 23rd!**

Tuesday's retreat will be the first time the Board has an opportunity to discuss the equity initiative together in person and VEA is eager to hear their thoughts, questions, and concerns firsthand. **The retreat is open to the public and will take place at the Bates Center from 9 AM to 2 PM.**

VEA is still eagerly awaiting further details related to the VPS Equity Advisory committee that is under development. We look forward to collaborating with VPS, alongside other key stakeholders, through intentional dialogue and transparent communication moving forward.

REMINDER!

An appointment process is underway to fill the current vacancy on the VPS School Board. The deadline for [candidate applications](#) has been extended to June 24th by 5 PM. Please encourage community members in your network who would bring diverse perspective and an anti-racist lens to the position to apply!

VSAA for Black Lives

VEA is proud of members at VSAA for organizing an event **"Listen: a rally for Black lives"** tomorrow, **June 18th from 4:30-6:30 PM on the sidewalk in front of 3101 Main Street** – join them as you are able! In addition to the event, they have also composed a [staff pledge](#) to their students in commitment to anti-racism. We appreciate their leadership and advocacy and look forward to supporting VSAA and other school sites in their work around anti-racism into next school year and beyond!

