

## VEA Update

### Our Charge to Be Anti-Racist

As we join the nation in mourning the horrific death of George Floyd, we acknowledge this tragedy as one in a long pattern of injustices Black-Americans have and continue to experience.

In response, we must fortify ourselves in our commitment to being anti-racist. **Our students, their families, and our colleagues of color deserve safety and welcome in our classrooms, our schools and in the greater community.** As educators, we play a pivotal role in providing this experience and in speaking up and taking action when that sense of safety and welcome is threatened.

The VEA is committed to taking on this work and challenges us all to:

- talk to each other about [anti-racism](#),
- educate ourselves on how to take well-informed steps and
- talk to [students about racism and violence](#) as well.



### Car Rally for Black Lives

Saturday, June 6th at 12:00 PM  
5411 E Mill Plain Blvd,  
Vancouver, WA 98661

The NAACP Vancouver Branch 1139 is facilitating a car rally in memory of George Floyd and all the other black lives lost in the last decade. [Registration is required](#) to get the route map and further details. There will be short remarks at the beginning and end of the rally. Participants are to **stay in their cars the entire time** and are encouraged to **make signs and/or paint their car windows to safely express the below messages or themes:**

- Black Lives - Write the names of [Black Lives lost in the last decade](#).
- #BlackLivesMatter
- #SayTheirNames
- #WeAreDoneDying

Please contact [Vancouver NAACP Vice President Jasmine Tolbert](#) with any questions you may have.

### #UnionSolidarity

Thank you to those who showed solidarity with Education Minnesota and the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers by wearing all black on Monday, June 1st as part of our call to demand justice for George Floyd. If you haven't already visited the [Education Minnesota website](#), we encourage you to do so. There, you will find:

- Organizations/funds you might consider donating to as an additional show of support
- Petitions you might consider signing as a call to action
- Links to a number of anti-racism resources



### VPS School Board Vacancy

Thank you also to the VEA members who sent emails to former VPS School Board Director Stoker, Superintendent Webb, and/or to the rest of our continuing School Board Directors this week in response to Stoker's problematic social media commentary this past weekend! Our anti-racist activism, coupled with that of our Vancouver community, led him to [resign from his Board position](#).



This will create a vacancy on our School Board through November 2021 when the position is up for election. As you may recall, Board vacancies prompt an application and interview process facilitated by the current VPS School Board so they may appoint someone. As we learn more regarding the related timeline and process, we will keep VEA membership informed. **This is a great opportunity for all of us to search our respective networks for quality candidates to represent and advocate on behalf of VPS students and staff – espousing anti-racist and community-centered leadership qualities!**