MAY 24, 2021 VOL. 37

NEWSLETTER

Fairfield Equity Coalition's Weekly Newsletter



Fairfield Equity Coalition is a youth-led organization taking local action to reimagine Fairfield's definition of what constitutes a comprehensive education. Our goal is to push for equitable policy and curriculum changes within Fairfield Public Schools while raising awareness on injustices against marginalized populations within our community.

Welcome to our **thirty-seventh** newsletter! As a community newsletter, we encourage our readership to reach out with suggested items. Thank you for your continued interest in our coalition!

COALITION UPDATE

Content warning: description and mention of racist language and events in the following section and the "Action Item & This Week We're" conjoined section.

Earlier this month, two siblings in Fairfield were the target of separate racist attacks from other high school students in town. Coverage of these horrific events reached all around the world, from local news sources like the Patch to the Daily Mail in the UK. The Fairfield Equity Coalition condemns these racist acts in the strongest manner and is working to develop tangible actions with the district and town to create full and restorative justice. You can view our full statement on these incidents from our President and Community Outreach Overhead here.

In response to these heinous acts, we are demanding actionable changes from all members of the FPS community at every level. Our President is working to schedule a BOE meeting to review the incident as a community. However, these types of racist acts demonstrate the immediate need for transformative responses beyond the FPS system, an effort that requires all facets of Fairfield government and community.

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- Thursday, May 27, 9:00 AM 10:00 AM via Zoom: "Mastermind" free to all virtual event hosted by the Minority Business Network. Learn how to overcome obstacles unique to BIPOC business owners and find a supportive community and network. Registration required. Details here.
- Monday, May 31, 7:00 PM 8:00 PM via Zoom: "Yoga by Us for Us (BIPOC Community Yoga)" free virtual event hosted by Lorrie. Yoga BU4U is a space of care and community for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Wherever you are on your journey, this class will support you in evolving your yoga practice. Details here.

ACTION ITEM & THIS WEEK WE'RE...

This week, we've decided to combine our Action Item and This Week We're sections to focus on how we need to respond as a community to these recent racist events.

Please watch the "We Won't Stand for Racist Incidents" episode of Equity Chats from <u>FEC's IGTV</u>. We devoted our second Equity Chat to discuss how to hold accountable those who disrupt our community with hate and intolerance, as well as ways to heal and learn from these horrific yet unsurprising events. Our President, Lynnaija Brevard, along with Andrew McKinnis, our Community Outreach Overhead, and Aliyah Augustin, our Communications Chair, spoke with the President of <u>RAGEtime</u>, <u>Kyla Johns</u>, and talked about these incidents and specifically about the trauma and historical weight that the n-word holds in the Black community. We hope this video helps clarify how communities must respond to racism in all of its forms and provides ways to heal collectively from the associated trauma. While watching the video, we encourage you all to examine the ways implicit and explicit racial biases may distort your own perspective.

GET INVOLVED

We are always seeking new members and leaders! If you are a current student or alumni of FPS and are interested in further involvement, please <u>fill out this survey</u>. If you are a teacher, administrator, parent, or Fairfield resident, please email us at fairfieldequitycoalition@gmail.com to get involved.

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