

CVSTA Stands in Solidarity & Defense of Black Lives

Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association (CVSTA) recognizes and acknowledges the pain, trauma, collective mourning, and grief both educators and students are facing given the blatant disregard for Black lives in our country. We have all witnessed numerous deaths of Black people on our social media feeds and the news. We empathize with those who have lost a loved one.

For too long, systemic racism and oppression have been allowed to breed and evolve within our society. Our education system, including our district, is not immune and has unfortunately fallen ill from racism.

The data supports this. As we begin to analyze budgets, including the LCAP, we can map out clear trends that outline racial divides based on the number of students overrepresented in special education or which groups of students make up the bulk of suspension and expulsions, among other categories and trends. It becomes painfully obvious what populations have been willfully ignored and discriminated against within our district.

CVSTA recognizes that while the legacy of oppression and racism in this country is not the single fault of this district, we have been complicit. Moving forward, we must seek reconciliation and healing. But these two do not happen unless we acknowledge what has already transgressed both within our communities and across the nation.

We call for:

- An immediate adoption of a board resolution establishing an equity committee to include but not limited to the hiring of an equity officer, equity audit, ongoing trainings, budget oversight, outlining of priorities for students of color; see attached resolution in full
- An immediate adoption of a board resolution in support of Black Lives Matters in Schools Action Week & Curriculum; see attached resolution in full
- A robust and fully funded Ethnic Studies program
- An open forum and restorative assembly between all BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) educators, students, staff, and families facilitated by an outside agency
- The immediate divestment in Hawthorne Police Department, Lawndale Sheriff's Department, and other law enforcement agencies CVUHSD holds contracts with, in order to fund restorative practices and community-based programming

“We are grieving, and we are outraged by the hateful racism and white supremacy that continues to terrorize our communities of color. The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor demand that we, as educators and Americans, recognize and confront the institutional racism that exists in our systems and structures.” (CTA)

Hosting a Google meet is not enough. We must act now. Students are in pain. Educators are in pain. You must listen to our pain if ever you hope to empathize.

In solidarity and defense of Black Lives,
The Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association

Link to CTA's Full Statement:

<https://www.cta.org/press-release/california-educators-grieving-and-outraged-by-hateful-racism>