

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-second** 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

In the last two weeks, FEC has been closely monitoring Fairfield's budgetary process, with a particular focus on the discussion surrounding our town's education budget. We are keeping a detailed account of what cuts and re-allocations are being proposed.

Since FPS is returning to full-time in-person or remote instruction this week, we want to help this transition by providing tips for a safe return that prioritizes the emotional and mental wellbeing of students and staff. Check out our [Instagram](#) for our advice series published this past week and be on the lookout for another series specifically about promoting mental health coming this week.

Finally, as we mentioned in our last newsletter, we are looking for local student or alumni artists as part of the inter-organization "art through activism" initiative. If you are interested in this project, please submit your information and proposal through this [Google Form](#).

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- **Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 PM via Zoom:** "Native American Poetry of Max Early & Cheryl Savageau" free online event hosted by [Riverwood Poetry Series](#). Watch these poets perform their own works. Open mic to follow. Registration required. Details [here](#).
- **Tuesday, March 9, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM via Zoom:** "The Fight for Women's Suffrage in Connecticut" free online event hosted by the [Cedar Hill Foundation](#). Learn how women in Connecticut fought for – and against – their right to vote . Registration required. Details [here](#).

ACTION ITEM *a way to make a difference today*

A bill is currently before Connecticut's State Senate entitled "An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety and Education of Children" ([SB2](#)). Among its many provisions are additional mental health training for school health professionals, and, namely, the "require[ment of] local and regional boards of education to integrate the principles and practices of social-emotional learning into programs of professional development and statements of educational goals." Expanding SEL has been a major goal of our coalition and should be the guiding principle for schools like FPS that are transitioning back to full in-person instruction in the coming weeks. We are hopeful this bill becomes law. You can read more about the bill [here](#). We encourage you all to [contact your State Senator](#) to voice your perspective and/or submit written public testimony based on these [instructions](#) we've created.

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

Reading "'The Sum of Us' Tallies the Cost of Racism for Everyone" by [Jennifer Szalai](#) for [The New York Times Book Review](#). In her new book, *The Sum of Us*, [Heather McGhee](#) writes that, while racism is most felt by Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, it has negative effects on the wellbeing of White people too. Using the analogy of "draining the public pool," where White communities *closed* public pools rather than embrace racial integration in the 1950s and 60s, McGhee demonstrates that proposals to promote social welfare - increased education and transportation funding, for example - continually fail across time and place due to the underlying, racist "zero-sum paradigm [where] the progress of some of us must come at the expense of others." We hope this review reflects just how deeply racism is embedded in our logic and decision-making. For copies of McGhee's book, visit The Lit Bar's [website](#) (more purchase options on McGhee's website).

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 [fill out this survey](#). If you are a teacher, administrator, parent, or Fairfield resident, please email us at fairfeldequitycoalition@gmail.com to get involved.

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Fairfield Equity Coalition


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