

TASK FORCE ON Race



The Task Force on Race met five times over this past year; four times in person at the MTA Auburn office and once by conference call. The committee members were dedicated to exploring issues of race that were often uncomfortable personally and emotionally.

The Task Force on Race members found that there is a need both within the MTA and in school curricula to address racial issues and inequity with sensitivity and candor. Many of our members want to address these issues but feel they lack the social and emotional support to do this work.

Among actions undertaken by the Task Force on Race:

- Discussed the school-to-prison pipeline: its history, how it has been institutionalized, and how we as MTA members can confront this issue and help to empower our students of color.
- Reviewed information that NEA has also been addressing institutional racism in education and has developed a task force to contribute resources toward addressing this important issue.
- Examined the scope of the issues of racism, white privilege and the invisibility of whiteness. Some of the topics are much broader than anticipated.
- Concluded that educators are in the ideal position to create change culturally and address issues of racism and inequity.
- Concluded that there is a need for safe healing spaces to discuss racial issues with confidentiality and candor, spaces where individuals can explore and question ideas without fear of retribution.

The Task Force on Race has started a webpage on the MTA website that includes resources for members. This page will be updated with more resources as they become available.

The task force concludes that it is important to continue meeting to pursue the topics above, and especially to create an alliance with NEA to develop resources for MTA members who want to pursue this work. Personal stories of the transformative experiences of committee members are available.