



NAACP



SW WA LULAC Council 47013

Dr. Steven Webb  
Vancouver Public Schools  
P. O. Box 8937  
Vancouver, WA 98668

November 1, 2019

Re: Washington State Attorney General's Letter dated June 25, 2019, "School Discipline at Vancouver Public Schools"

Dear Mr. Webb,

Vancouver's NAACP and Southwest WA LULAC Council 47013 (SWWA LULAC) recently became aware of a Resolution Agreement ("Agreement") signed between the Washington State Attorney General's Office (AGO) and your office (VPS). As you know, the Agreement resulted from the AGO's investigation and conclusion that VPS' disciplinary practices violate state law requirements which require student discipline to be imposed in a manner that does not disproportionately affect students on the basis of race, national origin, or disability.

This letter is to express that Vancouver NAACP and SWWA LULAC are pleased that VPS acknowledges the disparities in disciplining minority and disabled students and has entered into such Agreement with the AGO. Your expressed desire to make necessary changes to eradicate unlawful and inappropriate discriminatory disciplinary practices in VPS is a serious, appropriate and welcomed commitment to lead this change. We are offering to be a resource, thereby asking to be included into VPS' process of addressing and correcting the situation.

It is in no way our intention to impede or interfere with the directions and agreement between VPS and the AGO. However, both SWWA LULAC and the Vancouver NAACP have for many years engaged with VPS leadership and staff on complaints of discrimination in disciplinary policies and practices. As part of the impacted community, we have a vested interest in ensuring a constructive and sustainable outcome to the work VPS will be doing under the Agreement. If the impacted community is not involved in determining the resolution to a problem, the resolution will likely be unsuccessful. As such, we ask that VPS share the Adviser's report with the Vancouver NAACP and SWWA LULAC, and provide a point of contact for follow-up on this matter. Our desire is to determine if and how Vancouver NAACP and SWWA LULAC might work with VPS to ensure that VPS schools are safer and better for our disabled and children of color. Our goal is to eradicate discriminatory systems and practices.

We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Bridgette Fahnbulleh,  
President Vancouver, WA NAACP 1139

Lynn Marzette  
Chairman, Legal Redress Committee  
Vancouver, WA NAACP 1139

Diana Perez  
Director, WA State LULAC

Hector Hinojosa  
President, SW WA LULAC Council 47013