

Roanoke Change Academy Session Notes and Resources



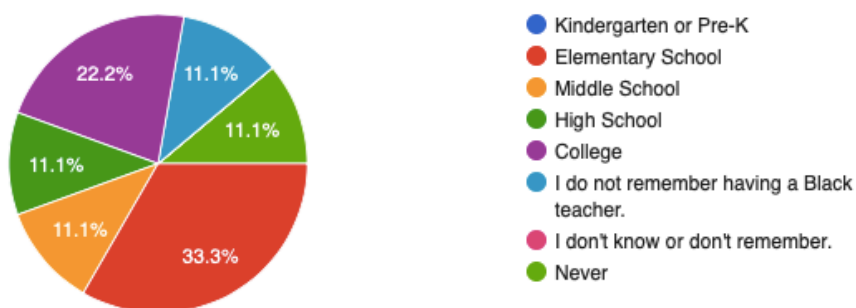
We'll also post these notes and resources (without the zoom links) so that you can always go back to them: www.bookcityroanoke.com/change.

Session 1 (Antiracist Education) Follow-up

The follow-up surveys are a way to dig a little deeper in on reactions to the session and additional information.

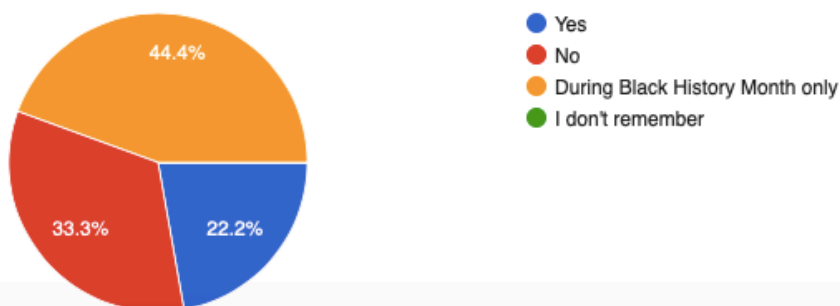
When did you first have a Black teacher?

9 responses



During your K-12 education, did you study Black history?

9 responses



The Virginia Commission on African American History Education in the Commonwealth released its recommendations on August 31 (link below). Pick the one recommendation that you think is most likely to make a difference, which is it?

https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/secretary-of-education/pdf/AAHEC-Report-Final_version2.pdf

6 responses

Teacher development in cultural diversity understanding and effective teaching

Professional Development Recommendations Additionally, the Commission recognized that change in the delivery of content will only be successful if teachers and school leaders are appropriately supported and equipped to do so. The professional development subcommittee developed six key recommendations to ensure Virginia educators achieve proficiency in culturally relevant teaching and gain appropriate foundational knowledge in African American history. Their recommendations are to:

Culturally appropriate pedagogy

I do not feel like I have enough knowledge and understanding to pick one.

Information added and corrected in the U.S. history curriculum on the topics of slavery, the abolitionist movement, the Civil War, Reconstruction, lynching, and other important matters in African American history that had been omitted or distorted

The Board of Education ought to revise its standards review process and practice to be more inclusive of diverse perspectives. An updated review process chart can be found in Appendix E.

On page 19, Dr. Kendi writes, "The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination." What antiracist discrimination do you think might improve educational outcomes for residents of our community?

8 responses

More financial investment in schools serving black communities

Providing more resources to underserved schools. Also universal Pre-K

rezoning for multi/mixed income housing/restorative justice as opposed to punishment

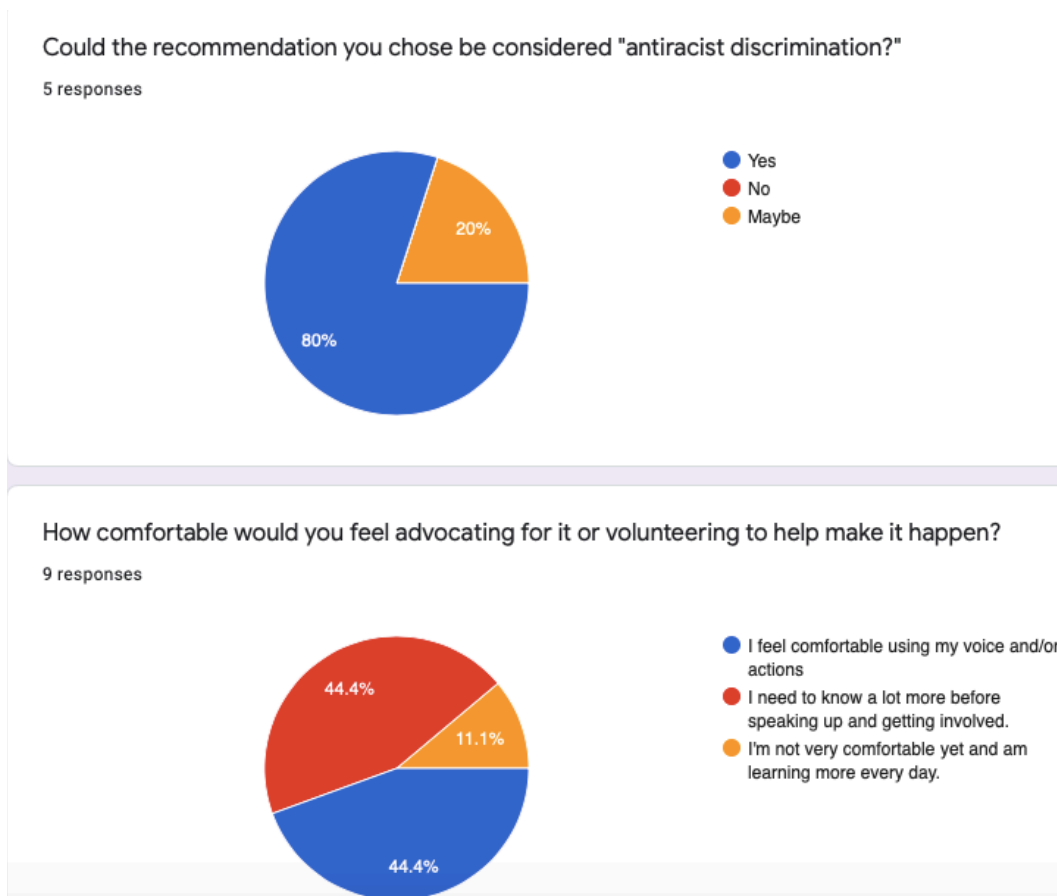
I believe funds need to be equally distriubted per student. PTAs advantage higher income students and their schools (racist). One citywide PTA pooling their resources, with balanced represtentation and leadership, then equally distributing the money (antiracist).

Decrease funding to schools that do not support curriculae that includes black history.

More scholarships for first-generation African American college applicants.

Funding schools equally regardless of zipcode

More curriculum, teachers that look like youth of color



Session 2 – Antiracism and Health

This session focused on Antiracism and Health and featured Dr. Liz Ackley, the Brian H. Thornhill Associate Professor in Health and Human Performance at Roanoke College.

38 people attended via Zoom

Some notes:

We can use data as a platform for storytelling. The data shows that both nationwide and in Roanoke, social determinants of health are often based on where we live. The racial inequities in health outcomes mimic structural divides—there is great inequity in infrastructure that impacts factors like how long someone lives. People have different rates of access to opportunity and services based on where they live, and this impacts health as early as childhood. Much of this is the long-term result of the National Housing Act of 1934, which has had a significant and enduring impact on people's health.

In some neighborhoods, there are barriers that impact people's perception of those resources. (For example, access to a park that isn't used because it's perceived as too dangerous for children to play in.)

One barrier to health here in Roanoke is access to a grocery store. “We have engineered our own food problems” with how grocery stores are positioned in the city. If you look at our grocery stores on a map, their locations form a ring around the city. Residents of some neighborhoods have to take busses for 2 hours to get to them.

Think about how antiracist discrimination can create equity. Knowing the data allows us to focus efforts where areas of greatest need are. Remember, too, that what a successful neighborhood looks like may vary from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Organizations are looking at ways to undo these inequities, while the pandemic is exacerbating them. The Government Finance Officers Association is rethinking municipal budgeting best practices. Locally, the City has created an Equity Task Force.

TAKE THE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY: <https://forms.gle/uwnvrJduVYNLkyMW9>

Tangible Actions:

- Engage in planning efforts
 - Comprehensive city, neighborhood and organizational planning
 - Question patterns and existing conditions.
- Dig into the data.
 - Learn more about Roanoke College’s Center for Community Health Innovation: https://www.roanoke.edu/about/news/center_for_health_innovation_announcement
 - Spend more time with Dr. Ackley’s presentation here: <https://bookcityroanoke.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/rca-session-2-ppt.pdf>

Additional Resources:

- NY Times: How Decades of Racist Housing Policy Left Neighborhoods Sweltering <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/24/climate/racism-redlining-cities-global-warming.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>
- The Case for Reparations: <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>
- *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, by Richard Rothstein
- Antiracism Daily: <https://www.antiracismdaily.com/>
- Neighborhood Race and Home Values: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-21/race-gap-in-home-appraisals-has-doubled-since-1980?srnd=citylab>
- A national wellness index:
 - <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/2020-healthiest-community-in-america-wellness/index.html>
 - <https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities>