

# Justice for Cynthia!

Cynthia Vanessa Iraheta Lopez is a mother of two children, a three-year old and a nine-year old. Originally from Honduras, she's lived in the U.S. for years. She's a part of the Seattle area community. Her niece is a student at Cleveland High School. Unfortunately, to the racist, xenophobic Trump administration and the U.S. government, she's "illegal" and must be deported.

For years Cynthia has reported to DHS as instructed including on May 11, 2017, where she was told to report to BI Incorporated, a private contractor for DHS, for possible removal to Honduras. Due to community support and pressure, her removal was delayed while ICE reviewed the stay of deportation presented by her lawyer.

Unfortunately, in an act reminiscent of a police state, she has been forced to wear an ankle bracelet so the government can monitor her whereabouts at all times. We call on the community to stand against family separation because it is cruel and unusual punishment. She has called on the community to support her on the date she's to report to the Department of Homeland Security and possibly be deported from the U.S.

**Social Equality Educators encourages all SEA members to support Cynthia and her family!**

**When:** Wednesday, June 21 at 1pm

**Where:** Department of Homeland Security, 12500 Tukwila International Blvd, Tukwila, 98168

**Sign this petition to support Cynthia:**

<https://action.mijente.net/petitions/protect-cynthia-from-deportation>

**Donate here to help with legal costs:**

<https://www.youcaring.com/cynthiavanessairahetalopez-818833>

**Watch these videos to learn more about her and other immigration cases:**

<https://vimeo.com/album/4602999>

**For more information contact:**

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# Educators' Vision

Published By the Social Equality Educators (SEE) June 2017 Contact us: [socialequalityeducators.org/join-us/](http://socialequalityeducators.org/join-us/) or call: 206.851.4963

## We Need Ethnic Studies in Seattle Public Schools Now!

By Tracy Gill and Jon Greenberg

While Seattle School Board members expressed their support of ethnic studies months ago, at the time of this writing, they have yet to bring a concrete proposal before the full Board. Summer is coming. The time to act is now!

As evidenced by the growing list of endorsements on the NAACP ethnic studies resolution, instituting ethnic studies throughout Seattle classrooms has wide support from the community. So what is the delay?

In April, the SEA Representative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution not only endorsing the NAACP ethnic studies resolution, but also calling for future SEA actions at school board meetings. Join such an action at the last school board meeting while school is still in session:

**When: Wednesday, June 28**  
**What: Rally outside the John Stanford Center at 5pm.**

Public testimony begins at 5:30 pm. To sign up for public testimony, be ready to email or call at precisely 8 am on Monday, June 19th. E-mail [boardagenda@seattleschools.org](mailto:boardagenda@seattleschools.org) Call 206.252.0040

Please provide the following information when signing up for testimony: legal name; contact information (telephone number & e-mail address); and the topic they would like to address.

## Endorsements for the NAACP Ethnic Studies Resolution:

1. African American Leadership Forum (AALF)
2. Ballard High School Multicultural Club
3. Ballard High School Students & Teachers Against Racism Club (STAR)
4. Michael Bennett, Seattle Seahawks
5. Center School People of Color Alliance (POCA)
6. CRREW (Collective for the Revolution of Race, Equity, and Whiteness) Collective
7. Kimya Dawson, musician, activist, and SPS parent
8. Denny International Middle School Student Race and Equity Team
9. Robin DiAngelo, scholar and writer
10. Equity and Race Advisory Committee to Superintendent Nyland (ERAC)
11. Experience Math Enrichment (eMode)
12. Garfield High School Black Student Union
13. King County Councilmember Larry Gossett
14. Jon Grant, Seattle City Council Candidate
15. Jesse Hagopian, educator and writer
16. Macklemore, artist
17. Multicultural Education Rights Alliance (McERA)
18. Neighborhood Action Coalition, districts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
19. Nikkita Oliver, local artist, organizer, and mayoral candidate
20. OneAmerica
21. Rainier Beach High School Associated Student Body (ASB)
22. Liza Rankin, parent, activist/advocate, and founder of Soup for Teachers
23. Seattle Alliance of Black School Educators (SABSE)
24. Seattle Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
25. Seattle City Councilmember, Kshama Sawant
26. Seattle Education Association Representative Assembly
27. Seattle Human Services Coalition, including the Non-Profit Anti-Racism Coalition (NPARC)
28. Seattle University Master in Teaching (MIT) Program
29. Social Equality Educators (SEE)
30. Jamil Suleman, local artist and activist
31. Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA)



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SEE steering committee: Sarah Arvey, Doug Edelstein, Donte Felder, Ian Golash, Jon Greenberg, Jesse Hagopian, Lauren Ware Stark, Jeffrey Treistman, Roberta Lindeman, Dan Troccoli

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[socialequalityeducators.org/](http://socialequalityeducators.org/)

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### Mission

Social Equality Educators (SEE) is a new rank-and-file organization of educators inside the Seattle Education Association that seeks to transform education in terms that empower students, teachers, and the communities that our public schools serve. As members of the SEA we understand that the educator's union has a vital role to play in creating an equitable education system. As educators we understand the importance of using culturally relevant and holistic curriculum to empower our students. We have come together to fight against the corporate reform of our schools and to organize for a socially just education system.

## SEE Endorses Nikkita Oliver and Jon Grant

By Stan Strasner

At our June 4th meeting, Social Equality Educators voted to endorse Nikkita Oliver for Mayor and Jon Grant for City Council Position 8 in the upcoming city elections. These votes came after much discussion on who would best fight for racial and economic justice for the working families of Seattle.

Nikkita Oliver is an educator, lawyer, and artist who's running for Mayor at the head of the newly formed Seattle People's Party, a grassroots party that represents working people and refuses to take corporate donations. Oliver has been a leading voice against the construction of a proposed \$160 million North Police Precinct and the new youth jail, and has tirelessly advocated to make the city affordable and accessible for all.

Jon Grant, running for City Council Position 8, is a longtime tenant's rights activist in Seattle. Grant ran for this seat in 2015 and was defeated by Tim Burgess by only a slim margin. Like Oliver, Grant is running outside of the Democratic Party and is choosing to run as an independent Democratic Socialist, taking no money from corporate interests and staying accountable to the community.

### Education:

Oliver opposes mayoral control of schools and supports students, their families, and the wider community democratically guiding the future of Seattle Public Schools. Oliver is in favor of restoring the funding of the Family Support Worker program that has been vital in supporting students and families in most need.

Grant has strongly supported impact fees from new development to pay for expanded school capacity. He also opposes charter schools and any attempt to tie education levy funds to test scores. Both support a call for mandatory ethnic studies in Seattle Public Schools. Both support efforts for de-tracking and investing in restorative justice to eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline.

### Housing:

Recognizing the acute housing crisis facing families who are being priced out of their neighborhoods, both Oliver and Grant support 25% mandatory housing affordability (MHA) in new development, raising taxes on major corporations to pay for workforce housing, and deeply subsidized housing and rent control. Grant's housing platform includes allowing tenants to collectively bargain their rents and creation of an office of the Tenant's Advocate with power to sue landlords for violations. Grant has been active in the advocating at City Hall for increased MHA requirements for the University District, Downtown/South Lake Union, and Chinatown/International District upzones.

### Police Accountability:

Oliver and Grant support community police accountability and believe the most recent legislation does not go far enough in empowering the CPC oversight of the police department. Grant drafted a letter to the Seattle City Council asking them to strengthen the legislation and invited all other position 8 candidates to sign. The only other candidates to sign the letter were Sheley Secrest and Mac McGregor. Both Grant and Oliver have been in vocal opposition to the construction of a new North Precinct ("bunker") and new youth jail.

### Campaign Finance:

Both candidates have pledged not to accept corporate donations to their campaigns. Instead, their campaigns are funded by small donations from working people, ensuring that they stay accountable to those of us they represent. Jon Grant has raised over \$150,000 so far using the city's new democracy voucher program, 90% of his total funding.

With Donald Trump in the White House, immigrants and other working people (especially the most vulnerable of these populations, students and youth) are under attack. It's important that Seattle elects candidates who are ready to combat racism, sexism, and economic exploitation, while pushing forward in the fight for a more affordable and livable city for all working people of Seattle.

For more information, please check out their official campaign websites:

Nikkita Oliver for Mayor: <https://seattlepeoplesparty.com/>

Elect Jon Grant: <http://www.electjongrant.com/>

# Two end of the year chances to hang out with SEE

As the school year comes to a close, we want to invite all Seattle Education Association (SEA) members and community members who believe in bringing social justice ideas into our classrooms and union to hang out with us at the following two events:

### What: Disrupting Racism in Schools: a Pre-Town Hall Discussion

<http://tinyurl.com/SEEtownhall>

When: Thursday June 15 from 5-6:30pm at Primo's (1106 8th Ave, Seattle 98101)

Please consider joining us before the #EducationSoWhite Town Hall Meeting for a "pizza hour" conversation with members of SEE.

This will be an informal opportunity to connect with fellow anti-racist educators, sharing resources and ideas for advocating for social and racial justice within and through teachers' unions. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss existing campaigns for racial justice in schools, such as #BlackLivesMatteratSchool, the NAACP and educator-led fight for Ethnic Studies, and the SEA-bargained school-based Racial Equity Teams - and to shape and engage in SEE's future campaigns.

SEE is committed to disrupting racism in Seattle schools through collaborations with community, school, and union organizations. While this event is hosted by SEE, all educators and community members attending the #EducationSoWhite Town Hall are welcome to join the conversation. We especially hope that educators active in the SEA Center for Race and Equity and the SPS Racial Equity teams will consider joining to discuss future opportunities to collaborate to advocate for racial justice across the district.

To purchase \$5 tickets to the #EducationSoWhite Town Hall: <http://townhall.strangertickets.com/events/43471565/educationsowhite>

### What: Join SEE for our last meeting of the 2016-2017 school year!

When: Sunday June 25 from 3-5pm

Where: Super Six, 3714 South Hudson St., Seattle, 98118

<http://tinyurl.com/SEEMeeting>

We'll briefly review and reflect on our organizing work this year, including the campaigns for #BlackLivesMatteratSchool and #EthnicStudiesinSeattle. We'll also discuss ideas and priorities for the 2017-2018 school year and vote on SEE's endorsements for the mayoral primaries. Thanks to Cleveland educator Lauren Stark for organizing these events!

In addition to the notable past achievements of the Social Equality Educators such as helping to close the CHASE bank tax loophole, the MAP test boycott, and the Strike benefit concert,

SEE's Accomplishments for this school year:

Oct 19th Black Lives Matter to Teachers T-shirt Day

Collaborated on Ethnic Studies Graduation Requirement

MLK Day Contingent

Women's March Contingent

Collaboration for turn-out with May 1st Coalition

Anti-Racist Youth Summit with Macklemore

CoSponsor of Detracking Forum at Garfield HS

Developed a Race and Equity Tool Kit