

## **NEA DEMANDS JUSTICE FOR BLACK LIVES**

By Mae Smith

On Saturday a position paper entitled **NEA Demands Justice for Black Lives** was presented to the Board from the Executive Committee. The paper began with, “As an organization representing public school educators across the country, the **National Education Association** recognizes the need to end institutionally racist systems and policies that have governed our society for far too long and kept Black people from full participation in American life.”

No board member could say that statement was not true nor based on solid evidence. The Covid-19 pandemic and social unrest across our nation this summer speaks to the need to end institutionally racist systems and policies.

For about an hour, under the leadership of Executive Committee members Eric Brown and Christine Sampson-Clark, we heard the rationale for the document and discussed each section. The sections headings included

- Transforming Policing Policies for Safe and Just Communities
- Healthy and Strong Communities and Schools
- Empowering Communities and Schools, and
- Ensuring the Right to Vote for Black, Brown, Native and AAPI Voters

The next step is getting Board members to commit to an action to advance the demands in their state.