

VESTA WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT! PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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VESTA CALLS FOR MANDATORY MASK POLICY, WORKLOAD, OPTION 4, HAND SANITIZER FOR ALL CLASSROOMS

Watch for a letter coming from VESTA outlining these positions, long held by VESTA. Efforts to address teachers' working conditions and health and safety have resulted in few clear improvements, and the VESTA EC made the decision to increase focus and intention behind these positions.

FEEDBACK ON THE VSB INDIGENOUS FOCUS NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

VESTA is seeking feedback from members on the structure and content of the November 27 VSB indigenous Focus training session. Provide feedback through VESTA on the successful aspects of the day as well as any considerations you'd like raised, given that the VSB plans to hold an additional non-instructional day with an Anti-Racism focus.

You can find the form to provide this feedback on the VESTA website, titled "VSB Inservice Feedback" under Forms and Documents by Friday December 11. Responses will be collated and provided to the district as a whole.



FSA campaign

We are holding out hope that our new minister will make the right decision and cancel the FSAs this year and into the future. For this year, the FSA has been postponed to January, but as teachers, we know that the possibility of a standardized test in the context of this year is even less meaningful and accurate an indicator of student learning than ever. The BCTF has released updated FSA campaign material and [information for parents on the BCTF portal](#). Please remember you can hand this material directly to parents and through students if sealed and addressed to the parents.

New Education Minister

Our new Education Minister, Jennifer Whiteside has been in the role for a couple of weeks now, meeting with BCTF President, Teri Mooring already and two additional meetings scheduled in the near future. Minister Whiteside met this morning with the BCTF Executive Committee and expressed an appreciation for the work teachers have done and acknowledged the challenges of working on the front line of a pandemic. She committed to keeping lines of communication open.

The EC raised the profile of several issues including reporting, communication of school exposures, provision of data and the need for increased health and safety processes. The BCTF has produced two briefs to the new Minister that collate and inform the Minister about teachers' priorities.

Failures to Fill

Please continue to send completed [failure to fill forms](#) to jody@vesta.ca. The information we are learning from these communications reflects the staggering loss of service to students and impact on teacher workload is widespread. We will continue to collate and provide this information in our advocacy with the district.

Assessment and Reporting

VESTA continues to work with the district to clarify the expectations. As you consider your responsibilities heading into reporting in January, keep in mind the following:

- Option 4 was not intended by the district as remote instruction, rather as a check in to keep students connected to schools for their eventual return. The fact that the district did not modify the format when it became clear that it would be continuing for the term does not change the responsibility of teachers. They have provided a paragraph to be used for Option 4 students
- if work was submitted by Option 4 students, teachers should consider carefully whether they evaluate or report on it
- Teachers whose programs were disrupted due to failure to fill (non-enrolling staff) may not have been able to complete the assessment required in a regular year.
- You cannot report on something you did not teach
- please find the link to VSB [reporting templates and samples at this link](#)



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Dates to Remember

Executive Committee Meeting

December 15

@ 4pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96683697940>

Meeting ID: 966 8369 7940

Passcode: 643762

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Remember to wear your Red for BCED on
Friday



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VESTA

The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.