

VESTA WEEKLY

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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR VESTA MEMBERS

We hope you had a restful break and found ways to take care of yourselves and recharge after the challenging fall term.

We are re-issuing the VW from December 17 as it includes important information that may have been lost in the last few days of school.

HAND SANITIZER DENIALS REVERSED

After months of advocacy, the district has changed its' position and will now be making hand sanitizer available to all classes regardless of whether there are sinks in classrooms or not. This is an acknowledgment of the fact that even though teachers are committed to teaching hand hygiene and incorporating hand washing into their class routines, and that hand sanitizer does not replace hand washing, there are times when it needs to be provided for student use.

The JOHS committee remains your mechanism for solving problems if hand sanitizer is not made readily available.

FSA

While efforts remain underway to have the FSA cancelled for this and future years, if the FSA does go ahead, new information has been posted [here](#) and [here](#) on the VESTA website including translated versions.

Remember that you can give FSA information directly to parents, or send them home with students, provided that they are addressed to parent and in a sealed envelope or folded and stapled.

Reporting Guidelines

VESTA has worked with the VSB to clarify reporting guidelines for teachers regarding Option 4 students and for Resource Teachers whose regular programming has been interrupted by failures to fill. These provide clearer advice, but provide a great deal of space for teacher autonomy and judgment. Colleagues, this fall has been more challenging than anyone could have expected.

We urge VESTA members to seek balance and remember that reporting is just a snapshot, and only one of 5 opportunities to communicate student progress to parents. The key things to keep in mind are that:

- You cannot evaluate something you didn't teach or weren't able to assess
- Reporting needs to reflect service
- Option 4 students should have the district standard comment.
- There may be some aspects you can report on, such as participation in online check-ins.
- If you do not have sufficient information to use the proficiency scale sliders, then include anecdotal comments as appropriate
- Updated guidelines provide support for teachers with Option 4 students, or students who are registered for in-class but not attending, and for resource teachers

You can find the district's advice to administrators from the district on the [VESTA website](#) here. If you have additional questions, talk to your Staff Rep or email your IHTO liaison.



January Dates to Remember



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**Aboriginal Education
Committee Meeting**
Jan 11, 2021 @ 4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/99851003090>
Meeting ID: 998 5100 3090
Passcode: 990133
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**Health & Safety
Committee Meeting**
January 11, 2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88623272013>
Meeting ID: 886 2327 2013
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**Adult Educators
Executive Meeting**
January 11, 2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95019760844>
Meeting ID: 950 1976 0844
Passcode: 283736
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**Executive Committee
Meeting**
January 12, 2021 @ 4:00 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/92602588052>
Meeting ID: 9260258 8052
Passcode: 877013
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**Teachers Teaching On Call
Committee Meeting**
January 14,2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91943004244>
Meeting ID: 9194300 244
Passcode: 334253
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

**WLC/B Committee
Meeting**
January 14,2021 @4:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/97985428045>
Meeting ID: 979 8542 8045
Passcode: 873124
Dial by your location
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

