

VESTA WEEKLY

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

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An Important Bargaining Call to Action

VESTA is committed to bargaining and to ensuring that the objectives ratified by the June VESTA General Meeting are taken forward. Bargaining is one of the key ways that we improve our rights with the employer, and every round presents an opportunity to clarify or achieve improvements to language like Post and Fill, Layoff and Recall, Staff Meetings, Health and Safety and many other matters. While big ticket items like Salary and Class Size and Composition are dealt with at the provincial table, the local table can address many long standing areas of concern directly with our employer. Local bargaining objectives need to be ratified by a VTF General Meeting in order to authorize the local team’s priorities. Jointly, as the Vancouver Teachers’ Federation, VESTA and VSTA negotiate on behalf of K-12 members in Vancouver through the collective bargaining process with our employer, the VSB. It is our obligation and responsibility under Section 12 of the Labour Relations Code as well as the Public Education Labour Relations Act.

Yes! We want a General Meeting to ratify our objectives!

We need your support to make the VTF General Meeting happen! The VSTA Executive Committee is withholding participation in this important meeting unless we concede that they have equal participation on the VTF bargaining team. VESTA members comprise approximately 60% of the membership of the VTF in both actual members and FTE calculations. We do not agree that VESTA members should receive less representation than is proportionate to our membership, and want to get on with the work of bargaining as close as possible to the November 1 start date, despite these unnecessary delays. Choosing to sit out a round of bargaining when we have been directed by our General Meeting to pursue specific objectives is not an option.

The constitution of the Vancouver Teachers' Federation (VESTA and VSTA together) states that:

"General Meetings may be called at the discretion of the Co-Presidents of the VTF, or the Executive Committee, or by petition of 10% of the membership of the VTF."

How can I do my part?

- You can complete the [survey form here](#) and on the VESTA homepage
- You can email your request for a General Meeting directly to jody@vesta.ca
- You can print the petition form [here](#) on the VESTA website and collect signatures at your school.

We will collate both petitions and emails until we have reached the required 312 members, at which point, the meeting will be called. Any VTF member, either VESTA or VSTA should add their names to the list if they want this decision-making process to proceed.

It is frustrating to have to go to these extraordinary measures to participate in our democratic structures, but good that we have a constitution that allows member voices to direct the union!

VESTA appoints Local Bargaining Team Members

VESTA EC this week appointed Greg Canning (Nightingale), Marjorie Dumont (VESTA Office), Vanessa Lefebvre (TTOC) and Jody Polukoshko (VESTA Office) as the VESTA reps for our local bargaining table. The BCTF has also appointed their provincial bargaining team, with representatives from around the province including reps from the BCTF Executive Committee.

VESTA representatives Donna Brack (Adult Education), Greg Canning (Nightingale), Alexandra de Montigny (Southlands), Marjorie Dumont (VESTA Office), Vanessa Lefebvre (TTOC), Karine Ng (TTOC), Joanne Sutherland (VESTA Office) will represent and promote VESTA priorities for provincial bargaining objectives at the end of this month.

New Draft Reporting Order

The Ministry of Education is working on the development of a new reporting order for K-12. While we have been advocating for reduced workload and removal of false accountability measures, the ministry's current draft would see an increase in reporting across the K-12 spectrum in areas such as reporting on all subject areas in all reports including areas of growth and next steps, increased student self-assessment and goal setting, more specific timelines for reporting and a required year end summary. You can read the draft order and provide feedback here to support the push back against increased reporting requirements and accountability. If approved, the Order would be carried in January 2022 and come into effect for the 2022/2023 school year.

Joint Professional Development Information Sessions

On October 27th and November 3rd the District Professional Development Committee will be holding half-day sessions for pro-d chairs and principals. Your school will be assigned a session and we hope that a pro-d rep will be able to attend from each school. The District Pro-d Committee plans to have the updated VTF/VSF Pro-d Handbook available for you to review, along with other important information to assist you in your role in helping your colleagues to develop as professionals.

It's a great opportunity for pro-d chairs and admin to hear the same information at the same time from a group that includes your VESTA representatives. The members of the District Pro-D Committee will be available to answer questions and engage in discussions whether it is about school-based professional development and funding, Collaborative Inquiry, Temporary Supplemental Funding, Self-directed professional development or other topics.

If you haven't heard about these sessions yet, please speak to your admin about attending. If you have further questions about these sessions we encourage you to attend the VESTA Professional Issues Committee meeting on October 20th. Click [here](#) for the zoomlink or email patrica@vesta.ca and/or allison@vesta.ca.

VSB Advisory Committee opportunities

VESTA is looking to appoint representatives to a variety of VSB Advisory Committees. The reps on these committees represent the entire membership alongside other stakeholder and union groups. If you are interested in one of these committees please fill out a [CV form](#) and submit it to the VESTA office by Wednesday October 20th. In order to be appointed as the rep on one of these committees you need to commit to attending a training session after school via zoom on Thursday October 21st at 4:00 pm.

We are looking for a representative for the following VSB Advisory Committees:

- Diversity (1)
- Education Change (2)
- Education Leave (1)
- School Calendar (1)
- Special Education (1)
- Teacher Salary Placement (1)
- Ad Hoc K-7 Music Review (1-2)
- Ad Hoc Food Services Review (1)
- Admin Procedures Working Group (1)
- Advocacy (1)

It is critical that we have representation at these meetings. Some of these committees meet monthly during the school year and are contractual committees in our CA. Other committees meet less frequently or are created to look at specific issue for a shorter period of time and take place after school. Contact your IHTO liaison if you have questions!

VESTA letter to VSB re: online learning

VESTA sent a letter to the VSB outlining our expectations that teachers not be expected to teach online or hybrid learning now that the Option 4 learning model is discontinued. TEAMS may be provided by the employer but there is no requirement to use it for instruction or evaluation, nor to post all of your assignments and curriculum online. Please notify your Staff Rep if you have been directed to do so. Our Collective Agreement provision on Professional Autonomy says:

"Employees shall, consistent with effective educational practice, prescribed, authorized curricula and locally developed programs, have individual professional autonomy in determining the methods of instruction, and the planning and presentation of materials in their professional assignments."

You can read the VESTA letter [here](#)



SURT Presentations

To find copies of this year's slide decks for the four elective sessions and from last year's training, please visit the VESTA Website [here](#). Presentations include: Staff Committee Chairs, Role of the Staff Rep, Health and Safety, Professional Development, Collective Agreement Enforcement and Improvement, Indigenous Allyship, Professional Issues and Equity, and Health and Safety.



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Dates to Remember

Social Justice and Solidarity Committee Meeting

Oct 14th, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82856112019>

Meeting ID: 828 5611 2019

Passcode: 727279

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

General Meeting

Staff Rep Assembly

Oct 19th, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87929340583>

Meeting ID: 879 2934 0583

Passcode: 644534

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Professional Issues

Committee Meeting

Oct 20th, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89432116582>

Meeting ID: 894 3211 6582

Passcode: 472421

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada



VESTA

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