

# VESTA WEEKLY

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

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## **VESTA Mentorship Fund**

Please find the VESTA Mentorship Fund form on the VESTA website [here](#). The VESTA mentorship fund was negotiated in the last round of Provincial bargaining and was released to locals on a pro-rated basis, and VESTA was in receipt of funds to develop our own mentorship program.

VESTA's mentorship program is currently approved by a committee that meets to discuss received applications near the beginning of the month. One of the mandates of the committee is to ensure that the greatest number of members receive mentorship funds, and that consideration helps make decisions about the number of days available for distribution.

Mentorship partnerships or groups can include early career teachers working with experienced mentors, early career teachers working together, experienced teachers working in new subject areas or positions with other experienced teachers, teachers collaborating to integrate Indigenous content into curriculum or developing anti-racist practice...The funds are a one time basis, and will be distributed until spent!



## **Call for a VTF General Meeting**

The survey and petitions for calling a VTF General Meeting to ratify bargaining objectives is still open and we continue to collect signatures towards a member-called General Meeting. If you or your staff have not yet made your desire for democratic decision-making known, there is still time to add your name to the list and ensure that the ratified bargaining objectives are forwarded on to the local bargaining table.

There are three ways to call for a VTF General Meeting:

Complete the survey [here](#)

Email [jody@vesta.ca](mailto:jody@vesta.ca) with your intent to call a VTF General Meeting

Download and support your colleagues to sign the petition found [here](#) and return it to [jody@vesta.ca](mailto:jody@vesta.ca) or to Jody through blue bag.

Once the meeting is called, it will be essential that we have an excellent turnout at the VTF General Meeting and get our bargaining show on the road! Watch this space and your email for updates on progress.

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## **VESTA Bursary**

The deadline for application for the VESTA Bursary is December 3. The form can be found [here](#) on the website. Eligibility criteria requires that the application include the child of a VESTA member who is registered for a post-secondary educational program and who graduated from a Vancouver Public School. The winning name will be chosen by lottery at the December 7 General Meeting.

Please see the form for more information!

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## **Health and Safety**

The BCTF is continuing to advocate at the provincial Steering Committee around the K-3 mask mandate and the ongoing work about ventilation. In Vancouver, the installation of MERV13 filters has been comprehensive and done well, compared with the work of other districts. While districts were supposed to provide specific information about their school's ventilation to school-based JOHS, the district will be required to post the ventilation status for each school on the district website, and by November 1 that information will be centralized on the Ministry website.

It's important to understand that the K-3 mask mandate is in the Provincial Order, not just in the guidelines. It is a requirement that all staff and all students wear a mask unless they have a medical exemption. If you are having trouble with the enforcement of this order, please talk with your school-based health and safety chair.



## **Health and Safety**

Some teachers have received unsolicited emails from anonymous groups or individuals who identify as parents or members. This is a privacy concern and we will be raising this matter with the district, as the VSB email is being used inappropriately. The overall response from members to the BCTF support for a vaccine mandate has been positive and prioritizes member health and safety and protections at the worksite. Please do not respond to these emails as they are unsolicited and an inappropriate use of employer email services.

If you have questions about vaccine mandate and the position of the Federation, you can check <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2021/10/14/covid-19-vaccine-mandate-frequently-asked-questions>.

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## **Draft Reporting Order**

A public consultation is underway on the draft reporting order. Opportunity for input closes November 5 so if you haven't yet had the chance to provide your input to the Ministry on the problematic draft reporting order, please [visit the website](#) and read about it and provide your input.

Issues and concerns:

- New required "summary of learning" is unclear whether it is required to be cumulative or summative
- Lack of clarity on what is required in the 5 reports / year and whether reporting is required on all subject areas in all formal and informal reports
- Wording of four-point proficiency scale causes confusion with parents and does not integrate with the 5 point Ministry ELL scale
- Continued colonial reporting structures that contain problematic concepts that don't always match the revised curriculum
- Length of report cards will increase and provide information not necessarily helpful to parents, students and teachers.
- New requirement to report prior to 25% of the school year, problematic for many classes but particularly early primary
- Unclear what implications are for ELL and resource programs
- Increased workload with collection and organization of the required student self-assessment and goal setting items
- High level of stress in schools during COVID not helped by pushing this through quickly
- Support and release time for implementation needs to be provided

Make your voice heard by completing the survey before the November 5 deadline. The BCTF continues to respond to the above concerns, but a strong public response will support those arguments!

## **Professional Development Location**

VESTA continues to assert that teachers are professionals and should be relied upon to use their time in a professional manner, including if working from home on professional days, but at the time of publication, the board has continued to remain firm in its stance that work from home is not permitted. There has been a lot of confusion about what constitutes an acceptable location for professional development as indicated at the Staff Rep Assembly on Tuesday. Senior management has clarified that acceptable locations include, but are not limited to, other schools, libraries, field studies locations and so on. We are able to choose the location, other than home, off-site as in the past. We reported to senior management the names of the 11 schools noted at the SRA where there has been different messaging from this. If you did not inform VESTA of issues regarding site location or your administrator continues to insist that locations other than schools are inappropriate, please contact [allison@vesta.ca](mailto:allison@vesta.ca).

That the BCTF expresses its concerns with the Ministry of Education proposal for a seamless day, both within the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and beyond.

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## **Antiracism Training Day Feedback**

Thank you to all staff reps and members who communicated their feedback about the September 7 Antiracism training day. Due to the lengthy SRA agenda, we weren't able to report back on the feedback received. Good news for schools still discussing the training – you can continue to send in your feedback until November 9 to [jody@vesta.ca](mailto:jody@vesta.ca)

Emerging trends from feedback is being collated by comments on format, content, context, appreciation, concerns, suggestions and other relevant factors.

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## **Seamless Day Kindergarten**

The Seamless Day pilot project, that pairs Early Childhood Educators with Kindergarten classrooms and teachers in order to increase the availability of childcare in BC has been piloted in 4 schools and will be expanding to an additional 21 schools. Vancouver is part of the expanded pilot. The VSB is working with the ministry and the union about implementation. While the BCTF has supported the program in principle, the proposal for implementation raises many concerns and the BCTF has expressed concerns with it, both in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, including that participation be voluntary and teacher resources be protected.



## Unused Remedy for 2020-21

VESTA and the VSB have agreed to the same process as in previous years for outstanding remedy owed for 2020-21. Schools will receive a list of teachers' outstanding remedy amount totals for last year including any outstanding remedy owed to teachers that resigned or retired last year. The remedy is to be pooled together at the school to generate a posting if possible.

Through your Staff Committee teachers will decide how to access that remedy. We have policy that we bring recommendations that the unused remedy be accessed by the teacher whose class generated the remedy. The remedy can take the form of additional prep, additional resource support or additional teaching staff to work collaboratively with the enrolling teacher. Through Staff Committee discussions you will determine the details of the remedy posting. If only 1 or 2 teachers are owed remedy the Staff Rep, admin and those teachers will determine the use of the remedy minutes.

Any postings need to be submitted to the VSB by November 30th. If a school is unable to determine how to use the remedy the union and the District will make the final decision. Subject to the approval of the District and the union the FTE may be added to a part-time teacher at the school where it would create a regularly scheduled work day on a without prejudice basis. If there isn't enough remedy to create a posting the teacher(s) owed the remedy minutes will schedule the use of the remedy minutes in consultation with their admin and where possible a PERM TTOCs will be provided. This schedule needs to be submitted and entered into SFE by December 2021. The remedy does not need to be used by December, but rather the plan for accessing the remedy needs to be submitted for planning purposes





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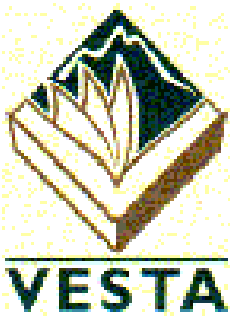
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## Dates to Remember

### **VSBC Committee Training**

Oct 25th, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88409733108>

Meeting ID: 884 0973 3108

Passcode: 310304

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

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### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Oct 26th, 2021 @ 4:00 PM

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88941983622>

Meeting ID: 889 4198 3622

Passcode: 024867

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada



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Resilient  
Minds.

VESTA

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