

VEAES WEEKLY

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



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Happy Spring Break

As we are seeing more daylight and the green shoots popping up around us, it is really starting to feel like spring is upon us. We hope this upcoming break is restorative and that you enjoy your time with your loved ones.

We know that we have a lot on our plates and that it doesn't go away just because we are on a break. We hope you can take some time for yourself and focus on your wellness as that has been a huge issue that we have been hearing about in the office all year. Here's to filling our buckets with all sorts of good things that will help us rest, restore, and come back for the final stretch of the year.

GO PUBLIC! Campaign

Immediately after Spring Break and to coincide with the VSB and provincial budget setting process, VEAES will be initiating a "Go Public" campaign to support teachers in talking to the public about our working conditions and our students' learning conditions.

Your Executive and Communications Committees have been working to develop materials that will assist us in participating in this global action supporting public services and engaging the public in our efforts. Your staff rep will receive a tote bag full of materials to support the campaign and advice on crafting messages for the public, and mechanisms to ensure your concerns are heard by trustees and elected provincial politicians in Vancouver and BC.

Year after year, our polling continues to indicate that the public views teachers as the most reliable and trustworthy source of information about public education – this campaign will help teachers get out in the world in a consistent way, raising concerns and issues with the chronic underfunding, lack of necessary service to students, and growing workload. Many teachers indicated a desire to speak to others about the conditions in schools, and we heard that call. Thank you in advance to all teachers who will share their knowledge and experience with parents, neighbours, community members and other advocacy circles!



Health and Safety Training for Committee Members

(Especially those who registered for the cancelled Feb 28th session)

Thursday March 30, 2023

12:30pm – 3:30pm

VSB Education Centre, Room 180

Topics that will be covered in this session include:

- Fire Safety
- Bloodborne Pathogen Training
- Workplace Violence Environmental Site Risk Assessment

Registration

Register on the VSB Pro-D site: <https://prod.vsb.bc.ca/> The training session is located under Health and Safety. After registering for the training, you will immediately receive a confirmation on your screen and sent to your email account. If this does not occur, please check that your java scripts are enabled or try registering with another browser. For further assistance, contact prodreg@vsb.bc.ca

BCTF Annual General Meeting

Over the break, some of your colleagues will be attending the BCTF AGM and working on your behalf to help the Federation set policy, leadership priorities, the budget, and elect the new Executive Committee. The BCTF AGM brings together about 800 delegates from across the province to do this important work.

VEAES is bringing forward 18 recommendations that came through our General Meetings. Delegates have been working together to develop speaking notes on our recs, as well as the other recs that will be coming to the floor for debate. When doing this work, our delegates rely on VEAES policy, as well as the feedback from members at General Meetings and Staff Rep Assemblies.

We are so grateful to our colleagues for doing this work, especially over the break, to ensure that our voices are heard at the provincial table.



ReconciliACTION

At this week's General Meeting, we looked at the TRC Call to Action #6: *We call upon the Government of Canada to repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada.*

Section 43, sometimes referred to as the "Spanking Law", allows parents and teachers to use "reasonable force" against a child in order to correct behaviour. This has been problematic for some time and many groups have brought forward petitions to repeal section 43, to no avail. In June of 1995, the United Nations recommended that Canada repeal this law and yet it remains.

While researching this Call to Action, we found that there is a live petition at the House of Commons, brought forward by an Independent Quebec MP, Alain Rayes to repeal Section 43. So, here is an ACTION we can all take as another step toward reconciliation.

Please sign and pass the petition along to your networks:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4265>

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New Reporting Order / Reporting Workgroup

Last night's General Meeting included an extensive report from VEAES' reps on the work being done at the VSB on the implementation of the new reporting order. The new reporting order includes a few significant changes including:

- Return to three formal written reports, altered timeline
- Inclusion of RT and prep teacher assessment
- Intention to use the proficiency scale as discrete categories

Your reps spoke strongly in support of teacher workload and the nature of learning. While the Board has indicated that the meeting process is complete, VEAES has expressed concern that the consultation was insufficient, and that teacher input was not included in a meaningful way.

These changes were created by ministerial order, and is not at the discretion of the district, however, the district does have some discretion into how the order is applied in Vancouver.

We will continue to advocate with the Board for ongoing consideration of the application of this order. Watch this space for more information

Meeting with Trustees

VEAES has been working on meeting with trustees to talk about issues our members are dealing with in schools, concerns about the budget-setting process, concerns about the reinstatement of SLOs, and the need for trustees to make some noise about the grossly inadequate funding for public education by our government.

We've reached out to all trustees. So far, we've met with Suzie Mah, Jennifer Reddy, Janet Fraser, and Lois Chan-Pedley. The other trustees have yet to reply and take us up on our offer.

Some good news that came out of those convos is that Suzie Mah and COPE have launched a ["No cuts, No closures" campaign to save Vancouver schools](#). They will be going out into the community to discuss these issues with Vancouverites. We're really excited to see this campaign roll out and appreciate the work that Trustee Mah is doing to raise the profile of the state of affairs in our district.

Post and Fill

Check the VEAES website for the timelines for this year's [Spring Transfer Process](#)

The upcoming dates members need to be aware of are mostly connected to March 31. This is the deadline for members to submit requests to increase their FTE to their administrator.

It is also the deadline for submitting a vacate card. Remember that you do NOT need to submit a vacate card if you wish to post into a new position. Vacate cards do not provide any additional rights for members in the post and fill process, they should only be used if a member wants to guarantee that they will not be working at their site in the coming year. It signals that your position is vacant for school organization and posting. If you put in a vacate card, you cannot apply back to your previous position.

All members can apply for positions without giving up your current position, and you are not obligated to accept positions you apply for.



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Dates to Remember

Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 @ 4 pm
VEAES Office
2915 Commercial Drive

Professional Issues Committee Meeting

April 3, 2023 @ 3:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84426185059>

Meeting ID: 844 2618 5059

Passcode: 225077

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Communications Committee Meeting

April 3, 2023 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82489634178>

Meeting ID: 824 8963 4178

Passcode: 092873

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee Meeting

April 4, 2023 @ 4:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89011632841>

Meeting ID: 890 1163 2841

Passcode: 965144

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting

April 4, 2023 @ 4 pm

VEAES Office

2915 Commercial Drive

VEAES

The Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators' Society is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.