

VEAES WEEKLY

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



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VEAES AGM May 16th- Executive Committee Nominations Open

Colleagues, we at the VEAES office hope you have had a restful break and found time to live and play with family and friends. As we move into the final three months of the school year, we inevitably begin thinking of preparation for the coming year.

We hope you will be able to join us at the upcoming Staff Rep Assembly / General Meeting on April 18. We intend to provide updates on the VSB budget, Teacher Workload, the new VEAES office construction and much more. At that meeting we will also be providing information relevant to VEAES' Annual General Meeting, to be held at Van Dusen Gardens on May 16th. Remember that any VEAES member can attend any VEAES meeting!

At the Annual General Meeting, VEAES votes on by-laws and constitution, the budget for the upcoming year, and elects our Executive Committee. If you are interested in joining the VEAES Executive, please review the [nomination form](#).

There are so many ways to serve your colleagues, and taking a role on the VEAES EC is an excellent way to bring your experience, knowledge, and passions to help create policy, determine new ways to engage members, and to contribute to the fight for fully funded and resourced public education. Teacher voices are at the core of the work of the union, and we are stronger when we organize with a diversity of voices and experiences. We need you!

Please contact your Staff Rep, any current or past member of the Executive Committee, or the VEAES office if you would like information about the role of the Executive Committee, the time commitment, the joys and challenges, and the different roles available.

Deadline for publication of your statement is April 15, but members can run up to the AGM or from the floor of the AGM. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming decision-making meetings and at the AGM. Watch for more information about that event.



VEAES Launches the [Go Public!](#) Campaign for Public Education

Get Your Community Engaged in the VSB 2023-2024 Budget Making Process!

We've been hearing from members about how we need to do something to make the public aware of the realities of what is happening in schools: shortage of teachers, shortage of support workers, students not receiving the supports they need, and the impact that chronic underfunding of public education is having on students and teachers.

This week saw the launch of VEAES' Go Public! Campaign for education. The effort coincides with the VSB's 2023-2024 budget making process and seeks to have teachers engaging with the public to help magnify our concerns surrounding working and learning conditions. As frontline workers in education, we are best able to share the realities of what is happening in schools. So, let's make some noise!



Campaign posters and special edition Go Public! totes are being sent out to Staff Reps at all VEAES sites. Staff Reps, please hold a meeting explaining the purpose of the campaign and setting the goal of having all members share the Go Public! campaign to 10 members of their community and get them to send emails on our behalf. You can find convincing data and information to support your conversations at the VEAES home page, and by clicking the [Go Public! campaign button](#).

Essentially, the campaign seeks to have the community send emails to all VSB school trustees asking to advocate at the provincial level for increased funding to public education. Every year, the VSB Finance Ctte tells us that there is not enough money in the budget to meet the needs of the district and that they have to rely on surplus to cover the continual deficit. We are not the only district who is in this position, this is happening all over the province. That is why the campaign also directs emails to all Vancouver MLAs, the Premier and the Minister of Education asking to fully fund public education to meet the needs of the students of this province.

Parents are great allies, but we need to be reaching out to the broader community to discuss public education if we are going to put pressure on the province to increase funding. Please consider going out to the businesses and community centres in your school community to discuss and put up posters to get more public attention to the campaign. Let's work together to get the message out there – it's time to invest in public education!

TTOC Shortage

After much advocacy by VEAES and VSTA, additional hiring for TTOCs has taken place at the VSB. Last night Eric Proulx, VEAES VP raised the issue of non-enrolling teachers being pulled to cover unfilled teacher absences at the Education Plan Committee Meeting. We heard there from Senior Management that for the vast majority of situations, the Board has been able to fill teacher absences with TTOCs “with very little exception” and that they are “moving away from” pulling non-enrolling teachers including counsellors.

If this is, in fact, the case, we are delighted to be moving towards improved TTOC lists. However, we are aware that internal coverage of teacher absences with non-enrolling staff has been a challenge for the district to “see”. If you continue to experience loss of non-enrolling service to students due to failures to fill, please email vanessa@veaes.ca so we can continue to problem solve or help the district to understand the areas where issues are still alive.

Act of Solidarity Between L.A. Teachers and their Support Staff Delivers the Goods for Workers!

3 Days of Coordinated Job Action Wins 30% Wage Increase for Support Staff.

In a bit of wonderful labour news, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) joined SEIU Local 99 in a 3 day job action beginning March 21st. The effort shut down one of the United State’s largest districts and resulted in a tentative agreement between the Los Angeles School District and SEIU 99, where a 30% raise, retroactive pay, a one-time \$1,000 bonus and expanded health care benefits were offered.

This serves as a beautiful example of the power of solidarity and VEAES congratulates SEIU Local 99 for their huge win!

[Click here](#) to learn more about what they won and how it was done.

April 28th – Day of Mourning

On April 28th each year, the VDLC organizes an event to remember those who were killed on the job, and to recommit to working to ensure that every worker goes home safe at the end of every shift. This year’s event takes place from 10:30am – 12:00pm at Jack Poole Plaza. For more information, check out [Day of Mourning events](#).

Maureen MacDonald – Celebration of Life

There will be a celebration of Maureen's life at the BMO Theatre (160 West 1st Avenue) on Sunday, May 7th @ 2pm. All of Maureen's friends and colleagues are invited. There will be speeches, toasts, songs by Maureen's cherished City Soul Choir – it will be quite the event! There's even a dress code – if you have anything red or blue, please wear it. VEAES will be donating towards refreshments, but it is a potluck, if you can bring a plate of sandwiches to share, it will be appreciated.



May Day Rally!

May 1st is May Day, or International Workers' Day, a day to commemorate the struggles and gains made by workers and the labour movement. Mark your calendars, as the VDLC is organizing a rally at City Hall @ 5pm. Let's stand up for living wages, renters rights, affordable housing, health care, public education, and REAL action on Reconciliation, equity, the opioid crisis, and climate change! This is a time to unite as workers to send a powerful message that we will not accept our coworkers, neighbours, and communities left behind!



How to Fix the BC Teacher shortage? Support Educators and Families – Tye article

In this article in the Tye, a retired Burnaby teacher speaks with their education reporter on the issues contributing to the teacher shortage and teacher burnout. Much of the information contained here will surely resonate with Vancouver teachers, and we hope will inspire your participation in the Go Public! campaign.

This article outlines the impact of failures to fill, teacher workload, post-COVID student behaviour, and school readiness, alongside dwindling resources and supports. Read here. Please remember to be thoughtful if you choose to comment, and to protect yourself and the privacy of your students.

<https://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2023/03/30/How-Fix-BC-Teacher-Shortage/>

Pension Seminars

Starting April 5 to the end of June 2023, the BCTF will be presenting online pension seminars every Wednesday to help members learn about their pension plan, their pension options, and the factors to consider when planning for retirement.

All seminars will take place from 4:30–6:00 p.m. PST, virtually using the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344950598?pwd=YWVqNkVvN25mRDBJTjA4aUJSZ1h3QT09>

Members who cannot attend the live online sessions may watch the recorded pension seminars at their convenience on the BCTF YouTube channel in the [Playlists](#) section.

Members are encouraged to call Sarb Lalli, Asst Director of Pensions & Group Benefits, at 604-871-1949 if you have any questions related to the Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, and/or Old Age Security Benefits.

New Hires – Check Your Placement on the Salary Grid

With the ratification of the Collective Agreement, we saw Step 0 of the salary grid removed, retroactive to July 1, 2022. If you were hired after July 1, and you transferred over some teaching experience credit from another district, province, or country, please check that you were properly placed on the salary grid based on your years of experience that were credited by the VSB. If you feel you have not been placed on the right step of the grid, please contact vanessa@veaes.ca so that we can investigate the matter.

Health & Safety Updates

The VSB has released the [March H&S Update](#) that speaks about WorkSafe BC's asbestos inspections. There should be an awareness video shown at your next Staff Meeting to ensure workers are educated around asbestos issues.

At the last District Health & Safety meeting, there was promising discussion about more transparency around reporting incidents and reducing barriers.

The VSB will be sending around pocket cards with QR codes for ease of access to forms that need to be completed when an incident occurs.

Remember that all 6A forms should be emailed to marjorie@veaes.ca and hsreports@vsb.bc.ca to ensure that these incidents are brought to the attention of District Health & Safety Committee.



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Dates to Remember

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.