

Motions to the VEAES AGM

Executive Committee Motions to the VEAES AGM May 16, 2023

Bylaw II - MEMBERSHIP

1 (a) Active Members: All BCTF members in elementary schools, and adult education centres in Vancouver. Active members also include BCTF members working in district positions, itinerant positions, Provincial Resource Programs, and secondary schools. Only Active Members shall be entitled to vote and to hold office. All BCTF members working in Vancouver adult education centres are also members of the VEAES Adult Educators' Sublocal.

Supporting statement

This by-law amendment addresses the errors of omission in the current by-law, that only makes reference to elementary schools, district positions, and Adult Educators. We know that there are VEAES members who work in PR, itinerant, and secondary schools, and this amendment better allows VEAES to represent members in these roles, as well as ensuring clarity for new members and our partner groups.

Bylaw III - OFFICERS & EC - COMPOSITION

1 (b) The Table Officers of the Society shall be a President, the Vice-President(s), a Secretary-Treasurer, Local ~~Association~~ Representatives to the BCTF, and the Immediate Past President. The Adult Education President shall be considered to be a VEAES Vice President. For clarity, no person shall hold more than one of these roles.

Supporting statement

This by-law amendment simply changes the language to reflect the current BCTF policy and procedures. The reference in by-law and III 1(d) refer to obsolete language and this makes our by-laws consistent across local and provincial unions.

Bylaw III - OFFICERS & EC - COMPOSITION

1 (d) The Executive Committee may appoint an alternate or alternates for Local ~~Association~~ Representatives. For clarity, no person holding a role listed in (b) above shall be appointed as alternate.

Supporting statement

See above

Bylaw III - OFFICERS & EC - DUTIES

2 (a) The President shall be the presiding Table Officer of the Society and ~~Chairperson~~ of the Executive Committee. The President shall be a member ex officio of all Standing Committees and of all Sections of the Society. At the Annual General Meeting, the President shall report on the activities of the Society for the preceding year. The President shall conduct and have charge of the correspondence, both internal and external, of the Society, and shall issue notices of meetings. No notice of the activities of the Society shall be binding and official unless issued over the President's signature.

Supporting statement

The President does not chair the Executive Committee, and hasn't, for about 20 years. The current practice is to build capacity and train various EC members in chairing and to rotate that work among EC members throughout and across years. This amendment makes it consistent with current practice and does not change other aspects of the role of the President.

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Bylaw III – OFFICERS & EC – POWERS

3 (b) Whenever any vacancy shall occur in the Executive Committee or any office of the Society by death, resignation, acceptance of a full time position outside of the local, suspension or expulsion from the Federation or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by an Executive Committee appointment until the next Annual General Meeting. If any member of the Executive Committee shall, without reasonable excuse, be absent from three consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall declare the office vacated. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill such vacancies. If any member of the Executive Committee applies for a job in management, the Executive Committee will declare the office vacated. The Executive Committee will be empowered to fill such vacancies.

Supporting statement

This amendment should be read with the proposed amendment to Bylaw III 7. The effort here is to ensure that all EC members and officers of the union are currently working and an active member of the bargaining unit. The majority of the former Bylaw III -7 has been imported here for clarity, as this bylaw speaks to requirement to participate and absences, as well as the process to fill any vacancies created by EC members taking positions outside of the bargaining unit or lack of consistent attendance at meetings. This is to ensure fair and informed membership on the Executive Committee and to the BCTF.

Bylaw III – OFFICERS & EC – TERM OF OFFICE

5 (a) The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of one year and shall take office on the first day of August of each year, ~~but the term of office of all Table Officers shall continue until successors are elected.~~

Supporting statement

This bylaw amendment is consistent with other VEAES by-laws and policies, including the proposed new bylaw III 5(b) that sets term limits for elected officers. The existing by-law seems contrary to the spirit of union renewal and sustainability, and there is already a process for filling vacant EC positions in our by-laws.

NEW Bylaw III – OFFICERS & EC – TERM OF OFFICE

5 (b) The aforementioned is subject to the following: No VEAES member shall occupy any combination of full time release positions for more than six (6) consecutive years; and, no VEAES member shall occupy the position of President for more than three (3) consecutive years.

Supporting statement

This new bylaw creates term limits for In House Table Officers. This reflects the current practice that has been observed for many years, however, we have yet to put it into our bylaws. This new bylaw will create clear parameters that anticipate elected members holding a variety of roles within the organization, but ensuring that plans for union sustainability and renewal are front of mind. It also ensures that teachers working in the VEAES office have recent teaching experience and helps keep our union connected to the classroom. The goal is also to ensure sustainable turnover of elected officers such that mentorship and support can be ensured.

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Bylaw III – OFFICERS & EC – MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE

~~7 If any member of the Executive Committee shall, resign from office, or without reasonable excuse, be absent from three consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee, or be suspended or expelled from the Federation, the Executive Committee shall declare the office vacated. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill such vacancies.~~

Should any member of the Executive Committee take a leave of absence which precludes them from working for the Vancouver School Board, they shall be deemed to be ineligible to hold office.

Supporting statement

Read with the amendments to bylaw III 3(b), this connects the two by-laws to clarify that members on leave or no longer working for the VSB cannot hold Executive Office.

By-law IX – AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

The Society may in General Meeting assembled amend or alter the Constitution and Bylaws providing that notice of such meeting shall be given fourteen (14) days in advance and shall clearly state the amendment(s) of the Constitution and Bylaws which is/are to be considered. The majority required to amend the Constitution or any Bylaw shall be a ~~three-fourths~~ two-thirds majority of the Active Members present and voting at such a meeting.

Supporting statement

This change, which would result in a lower threshold for constitutional change would make VEAES consistent with the BCTF, who made this same change at the 2023 Annual General Meeting on the advice of legal counsel. This brings us into better compliance with the Societies Act and will allow VEAES clarity and consistency in addressing necessary changes to bylaws and our constitution.

2023–2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES

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