

# VEAES WEEKLY

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



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## **VSBC Board Decision on Queen Elizabeth Annex**

VEAES, along with many members of the public, DPAC, other union groups, and Trustees Mah and Reddy have been advocating and showing up at meetings speaking against the surplus of the Queen Elizabeth Annex site.

On April 11th, the Vancouver School Board carried a motion to declare the QEA site and buildings surplus to the needs of the School District and instruct staff to proceed with the Real Property disposal process. [You can watch the meeting here](#) to see how trustees voted and spoke to this motion.

Trustee Mah attempted an amendment, supported by Trustee Reddy, to postpone this decision until the Board heard back from the Musqueam host Nation and until verification of the projected student enrolment numbers given the discrepancies between the Vancouver School District's projected enrolment numbers and the Ministry of Education projected enrolment numbers.

These two points are very important, as there was not sufficient time given to the Musqueam Nation to do their consultation with members and bring their response to the Board. The point about enrolment has raised some serious red flags as the VSB keeps projecting declining enrolment, whereas the Ministry and other groups keep projecting increased enrolment.

This amendment was defeated by Trustees Fraser, Chan-Pedley, Richardson, Zhang, Jung, Faridkot, and Chien.

Trustees Mah and Reddy spoke strongly against the main motion, unfortunately they were not supported by the other trustees.

We know this process has been really hard on the Queen Elizabeth Annex school community and our hearts go out to our members at this site. It is a devastating loss and the impact will be felt for years to come.



## **Staff Rep Assembly, Tuesday April 18th**

Just a reminder to members that this month's Staff Rep Assembly happens on Tuesday, April 18th @ 4pm in the Tupper Secondary cafeteria. All members are welcome! Most sites have space for more voting members, as each Staff Rep can only hold 3 voting cards as per [VEAES Bylaws](#). It's a great way to get an idea of what is happening across the district, so check in with your Staff Rep to talk about attending.

We're getting a lot of emails about Resource time, Reading Recovery, and Health & Safety lately. This is a reminder for Staff Reps to bring these issues forward as School Concerns to the meeting. You can do so by emailing [karine@veaes.ca](mailto:karine@veaes.ca) or raise them from the floor at the meeting. It is important to have these discussions with the broader group to get a sense of how these issues are being dealt with at different sites. The information that comes from these discussions helps your in-house team when bringing these issues to the Employer.

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## **Take It Outside!: Experiential Learning and Sustainability Pro-D Day on April 24**

Hey educators! Registration is now open for Take It Outside—an entire day dedicated to exploring experiential learning and sustainable teaching practices. This FREE Pro-D consists of two parts: a morning field experience (of your choosing) located at one of several locations in Vancouver, followed by a community lunch, plenary (Jo Chrona will be speaking!) and afternoon indoor sessions at Tupper Secondary School. Whether you're curious about taking students outside, or outdoor learning is already part of your daily practice, this Pro-D has something for everyone.

Spots are limited so register soon: <https://prod.vsb.bc.ca/workshopdetails?workshopid=2407>

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## **Post and Fill School Union Rep Training (SURT) May 3rd & 4th**

Staff Reps should have received an email about the upcoming Post and Fill workshops happening at the VEAES office. The sessions are happening on May 3rd & 4th, 9am-3 pm at the VEAES office. If you cannot attend on your designated day, please try to send a colleague in your place to get the information to bring back to your site.

## District Fine and Performing Arts Working Group

VEAES just received notice from the VSB that they will be convening a District Fine and Performing Arts Working Group as part of the implementation of recommendations in the Elementary Music Review. The statement reads that *this group will ensure alignment of the District's Visual and Performing Arts mission, vision, and strategic directions with the District Education Plan, collaborate to enhance fine and performing arts opportunities for students, and discuss progress of initiatives and practices supporting the arts.*

These meetings will be held 3 times per year. We will hopefully have more information in next week's Weekly, but wanted to get the word out now due to timelines the VSB put on getting stakeholder reps. If you are interested in being a representative on this working group, please [submit a CV](#) by April 24th.

### Health & Safety – Understanding Forms & Process

The health & safety of our members is of utmost importance and we get a lot of questions at the VEAES office about when to fill out a form, which form, and what happens after you submit the form. We know this process is hard to navigate while you're experience a health & safety issue, which is why it's important to be familiar with the process. The BCTF has created a [Health & Safety Handbook](#) that is very thorough and covers things like: worker and employer responsibilities, reporting an incident, workplace violence, the right to refuse unsafe work, investigations, and a section with flowcharts that help understand the different steps that should happen once an incident is reported. VEAES will be sending out a hard copy of the handbook to each site.

It's a great resource to have available to help navigate these tough situations and to ensure that the right steps are taken to address an incident.

It is really important for members to realize that we need to fill in the 6A form every time there is an incident or injury. Email the 6A form to your administrator, your Health & Safety Chair, [marjorie@veaes.ca](mailto:marjorie@veaes.ca), and [hsreports@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:hsreports@vsb.bc.ca) (not [healthandsafety@...](mailto:healthandsafety@...)). It's really important to get these forms to the right places, so these incidents can be tracked.



## **Call for Nominations for next year's VEAES Executive Committee**

Reminder that we are now accepting CVs for next year's Executive Committee. If you are interested in putting your name forward to be a member of the VEAES EC for the 2023-24 school year [please fill out the CV](#) and return it no later than April 15th. All candidates running for elected positions will be shared with the membership in the upcoming VEAES NEWS in May. The elections will take place at the May 16th AGM. Candidates who do not make the April 15th submission deadline can still put their name forward to run from the floor at the AGM. If you are considering it and would like more information, do not hesitate to reach out to the VEAES office or any VEAES EC members to answer questions and provide insight about the work of the EC.

## **Ministère de l'Éducation et de la Petite Enfance—Révision de l'échelle de compétence provinciale**

La FECB est à la recherche d'enseignant·es de français de base, d'immersion et du programme francophone pour participer à deux demi-journées de sessions virtuelles (1er et 3 mai 2023) pour la révision de l'échelle de compétence provinciale. Ces sessions porteront sur la traduction française de l'échelle de compétence pour en assurer l'harmonisation du libellé avec la version anglaise actuelle dans le cadre de son utilisation dans les rapports sur les progrès des élèves. Cliquez ici pour plus d'informations et pour poser votre candidature.

## **Young Workers' Social**

The BC Federation of Labour Young Workers' Committee is hosting a social for all young workers under the age of 35. Come to the Greta Bar in Vancouver on April 15 at 7:00 p.m. to socialize and connect with other labour activists. Connections and relationships are what make the union movement strong.

## **Facilitators**

BCTF facilitators participate in delivering workshops and training sessions for members across the province. Currently, the BCTF is seeking facilitators for Women in Negotiations, the Teacher Inquiry Program, French workshops, health and safety training, professional and social issues workshops, school union rep training, social justice workshops, and teachers teaching on call training. For more details on each facilitator role and to apply, visit the [Postings and Opportunities](#) webpage.



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## Dates to Remember

**Aboriginal Education  
Committee Meeting**  
Apr 13, 2023 4:00 PM  
**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81492927895>

Meeting ID: 814 9292 7895  
Passcode: 931201  
Dial by your location  
+1 778 907 2071 Canada



**Health & Safety  
Committee Meeting**  
Apr 13, 2023 4:00 PM  
**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89951381511>

Meeting ID: 899 5138 1511  
Passcode: 012944  
Dial by your location  
+1 778 907 2071 Canada



**Professional Issues  
Committee Meeting**  
Apr 17, 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



**Staff Rep Assembly**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**  
3 from 4-6 pm  
**Tupper Secondary**



**TTOC  
Committee Meeting**  
Apr 19, 2023 4 pm  
**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88512098530>

Meeting ID: 885 1209 8530  
Passcode: 506654  
Dial by your location  
+1 778 907 2071 Canada

VEAES

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