

VEAES WEEKLY

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



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VEAES Office Moving Day Wednesday June 7th

Moving day has finally arrived for the VEAES office! We will be moving to our new office space at 2238 Yukon Street next Wednesday. Your VEAES In-House team, along with members of the Executive Committee, have been going through 30 years of VEAES documents to triage what we need to keep and what we can fit into the new office, as we are moving into a smaller space with limited storage capacity. The movers are coming on Wednesday, June 7th, so we are in the thick of things right now.

As part of the moving process, the phones will not be active from Tuesday, June 6th – Thursday, June 8th as IT has to disconnect everything on Tuesday and reconnect on Thursday. If everything goes as planned, the phones will be back up by Friday, June 9th. We will still be able to monitor our emails, so please send any inquiries by email. We appreciate your patience, as the response time may take longer in the coming days as we navigate the moving process. We look forward to welcoming members into the new office space soon!

Green Thumbs Wanted

As we are hosting a couple of events in June at the new office space, we have some gardening to do on the patio. There are planters that need some tending to and we invite any Honorary Life Members to come in and help us out. If you have some time on your hands on Monday, June 12 or Tuesday, June 13th, please contact lori@veaes.ca for more info.



Option 4 Survey

The Union filed a grievance around exceeding instructional minutes that is going to arbitration next fall. We need members' help in preparation for this arbitration so we have sent out a survey to all members regarding the Option 4 program that was put in place during the pandemic in the 2020-21 school year.

While most of the questions are focussed on teachers who did Teams "check-ins" with Option 4 students at lunch hour or before/after school, there is one question about how the program impacted your overall workload that all members can respond to. Please take some time to reflect back on that school year and complete the survey.

While the summary of the data from the survey will be helpful, we are hoping to connect with some teachers who can speak to us and share evidence of how this program increased your overall instructional time. You can access the survey [here](#). Please complete by Friday, June 9th.

TTOC Information Update

Reminder to all TTOCs to ensure your contact information is up-to-date – VEAES is pressing the Board to make sure that all available TTOCs are deployed to cover absences! Reminder that calls may come in on a particular day for future events, so even if you have made yourself unavailable for the next day, your phone ringing may be an attempt to book you for days ahead.

SFE Information

The SFE Working Group is meeting again this week to take a look at making SFE more effective. One issue that has come up that members can help out with is to put the actual grade you teach into your profile, or the job assignment details. Currently, it is a general K-3, 4-7 being entered unless the member changes it and makes it more specific on their profile. This helps TTOCs prepare for their day and really helps when a multiple day assignment goes to callout.

Spring Transfer Timelines

VEAES learned from the VSB this week that the Admin transfer information will be made available later this year due to delays in their process this year. The unfortunate impact is that for the first round of Spring Transfer, members applying for positions will not necessarily know who the admin will be at the potential new site. We have let the VSB know that this can cause problems for some members, and have asked for process to address this.

Incremental Increases in Time

In the past, the Board has allowed small amounts of FTE that are not usually posted (<0.2 FTE) to be added to the FTE of other members at the worksite regardless of their previous FTE or whether they indicated a formal desire to increase their FTE prior to March 31.

Part-time members who accepted this time were doing the District and their schools a favour by ensuring that all FTE were allocated within the school organization, and to make sure that every drop of support for students was realized through staffing and delivery of services.

The Board and the union are not in agreement on this. We raised the issue and requested that members be allowed to assume this time so as not to lose much needed support. The District has made a different decision, and has opted to claw back any FTE less than 0.2 FTE that was not able to be added to a posting, even if there were part time members willing to assume that FTE. We will be filing a grievance on this matter, and are incredibly frustrated at this management decision that will certainly result in loss of services for students. We also are asking the Board to justify how they have reallocated that time to make sure it remains in the school that generated it, and in elementary schools if it was removed. We have seen too many times how services and staffing generated by elementary school students are used as a slush fund by the district rather than being applied to front line staffing.

Unpaid Leave and TRB Fees

If you are on an unpaid leave, [make sure you pay your annual teaching practice \(TRB\) fees](#), to avoid your certification lapsing!

Remedy

As we mentioned last week, May 31st pay advice will show Feb and March Remedy, June 15th pay will show April Remedy. VEAES' expectation is that the Board will continue to honour rollover of remedy minutes after June 30. If you are a long term TTOC in a class that generates remedy, and you have not been allocated remedy minutes on your pay advice, please let us know!

Unsafe Heat!

Kudos to the Surrey School District for their bold position in declaring the climate emergency. While they still need to take steps to make sure their employees and students are safe in the warmer temperatures, Vancouver has unfortunately continued to ask teachers to open windows and close the blinds if classroom temperatures are too high.

Remember that WorkSafe is in place to protect workers, whether it be from violence, accidents, or untenable heat! We are receiving reports that classrooms are too hot in Vancouver, and we are aware of other districts where WorkSafe has been proactive in supporting heat mitigation efforts. Contact your site-based Health and Safety rep for more information! WorkSafe regulations include acceptable summer ranges of temperature between 23oC and 27oC depending on the relative humidity. Use your Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee to raise concerns about school temperatures!

Correction on Posting Timelines

In our SURT training on post and fill, we erred in showing the first round of postings as May 31 – June 6. In fact, the first round of postings come out on June 6th and will close on June 12. Even more important to keep those school-based timelines rolling!

It's a good idea to log into the posting site, [OAM](#), prior to June 6th to ensure your login is working and you can access the site. If you are not able to log in, email employeeservices@vsb.bc.ca for support.





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Dates to Remember

Working Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee Meeting

June 5th, 2023

@ 4:00 pm

VEAES Office

2915 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC

Aboriginal Education Committee Meeting

June 8th, 2023 @ 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83447275221>

Meeting ID: 834 4727 5221

Passcode: 385654

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Teachers Teaching on Call Committee Meeting

June 14th, 2023 @ 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86073971283>

Meeting ID: 860 7397 1283

Passcode: 391392

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Health & Safety Committee Meeting

June 14th, 2023 @ 4:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87202273297>

Meeting ID: 872 0227 3297

Passcode: 598330

Dial by your location

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VEAES

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