

# VEAES WEEKLY

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



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## Happy Summer – You’ve made it!

We want to wish everyone a restful and restorative summer. As we wrap up the school year, there are a myriad of emotions that we feel. For some, this has been a really challenging year that has tested patience, resiliency, and wellness. For others, this has been a wonderful year of growth and learning. For many, it’s been a bit of both. We want to commend members for working together and supporting each other at your sites, as you are all such an integral part of your school community. You do the heavy lifting of working with multiple students, who come to us with complex lives, and trying to meet their needs with fewer and fewer supports.

While we negotiated a new Collective Agreement this year that provided a wage increase, it did not address the ongoing, untenable workload that is being put on members. This is at the root of every call we get at the VEAES office and we bring this message to every meeting with the Employer and with the BCTF. Our members are stretched so thin and things need to change. VEAES will continue to fight for our members’ working conditions and our students’ learning conditions.

As in every struggle, there needs to be time for rest and this is that time. We hope you enjoy spending time with those you love: your family, your friends, and yourself. Take good care, safe journeys, and see you in September!

*Jody, Marjorie, Darren, Vanessa, Karine, Eric & Rob*



## TTOC Availability Forms

There have some issues with the communication of the [2023-2024 TTOC Availability Form](#). This form must be returned either by email to [absences@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:absences@vsb.bc.ca) or by blue bag to Employee Services-SFE **no later than July 31, 2023**.

We strongly encourage members to send it via email, as the Employer still does not provide a confirmation to TTOCs that they have received their form. Sending it by email gives you a proof of receipt, in the event that your availability is not updated by the Board come September. Please check, before the first day of school, that you can access SFE to ensure that your availability has been updated.



## VEAES Union Engagement Survey

As we look forward to the next year with goals of increasing engagement, we are hoping members can take the time to complete a [short survey](#) regarding their levels of engagement with the union. We know this is a busy time, so we will keep the survey open and send a reminder in the fall. We appreciate your participation as we look at our structures and how we can improve them.

## **BIPOC Affinity Group Year-End Gathering**

VEAES was happy to host this event in the new office on June 16. Members brought not only food to share, but also vulnerability and positive energy to give each other a boost to finish the school year with radical love, hope and spiritual strength. The growing curiosity about how BIPOC members can participate in union work and leadership roles is truly energizing!

Thank you to all those who showed up this year to lay the ground work by building trust and practising community care; this work is foundational and undergirds anything else that the Union does. Before we are unionists, we are human beings. We lift our hands up in honour of the decolonizing effort that the group has made and committed to continue next year!



## VEAES Retirement

It was another beautiful night of celebration at this week's retirement dinner, honouring our colleagues who are retiring this year. This night had it all – good company, great food, and amazing stories. It was a real treat to hear the stories of our retirees as they reflected on their careers. There were a lot of laughs, a lot of tears, and most of all, a lot of love in that room.

We want to thank all of our retirees for their contributions to public education, for making a difference in so many lives, and we wish you all the best in your well-deserved retirement!



## Tyee Pride Week

Last week, Tyee hosted Pride Week, with a lunch hour pride dance party, Pride board games day, Pride chalk art, pride painting, and a rainbow wear-your-pride colours day. It was great to see so many students participating in the fun events.

Gold stars to our VEAES members for organizing and celebrating with their school community!



## VEAES Summer Hours

The VEAES office will be open from 9 am-3 pm from July 4-15th and Aug 21st – Sept 1st. We will have reduced staff and in House Table Officers (IHTOs) available.

Staff Reps and members, please look for the school opening package from VEAES in September, which will include information about the year ahead, a welcome letter for all members, and information update forms.



## VEAES

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