

VEAES WEEKLY

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



VEAES Member Portal

To access the portal, go to the [VEAES website](#). On the menu, scroll down to [Member Portal Log In](#). When you click on it, there will be a prompt for your to register. After much consideration, we have chosen to use members' VSB employee numbers as the username, as it allows us to verify members. So, you will have to have your VSB employee number ready in order to register for the portal.

Once your registered and verified, you can access the portal menu, which is located on the left sidebar, under Member Portal. We encourage all members to sign up. If you have any issues with your registration, please email lori@veaes.ca

Table of CONTENTS

2024-2025 Executive Committee - Page 2

BCTF AGM 2024 - Page 3

Fundraising - Page 4 & 5

Pro-D Updates - Page 5

Limited spots remaining for April's district-wide Pro-D "(Un)Learning: Embracing Education Outdoors" - Page 5

Climate Action Rally - Page 6

Employment Equity for Aboriginal Educators - Page 7

Online Pension Seminar - Page 7

2024-2025 Executive Committee

by: Karine Ng and Jody Polukoshko

VEAES is seeking curious, passionate, VEAES members to put their name forward for election to the 2024-2025 VEAES Executive Committee! The VEAES Executive Committee meets biweekly throughout the year to implement VEAES policy, direct the In House Table Officers, make decisions about the direction of the organization, and provide leadership on our priorities. We are about 20 members who are dedicated to public education and unionism, and we'd love your perspective to be part of how VEAES does our work.

Whether you are interested in continuing your commitment as an existing or returning EC member or someone considering it for the first time, there are a lot of opportunities for participation that support teachers and help keep VEAES relevant, connected to members, and respond to the VSB and broader issues in public education. Training and orientation will be provided to all EC members at a retreat that is scheduled to take place over a weekend in September. All positions on the VEAES Executive Committee are open every year for election.

Please find attached the [EC nomination form](#) if you would like to run for a position on the executive for the 2024-2025 school year. It is important to return the form by April 15th, 2024 in order for your write-up and photo to be included in the VEAES News publication. Elections will take place at the VEAES AGM on May 14. Please note that candidates can also be nominated off the floor at the AGM.

The commitment as an EC member is to attend EC meetings that are held twice monthly, as well as the monthly General Meetings and/or Staff Rep Assemblies. These meetings are important for members in an elected role to attend, because they represent membership in a governance role that provides guidance and direction to IHTOs, and in turn, VEAES as an organization. It is therefore paramount that each EC member is informed by listening to staff reps and members at these meetings, in order to fulfill their representational duties.

If you are interested in a committee chair role, there is an additional leadership role and responsibility to chair regular committee meetings throughout the school year. There is flexibility to how the meetings are run, but it is crucial that they be held on a regular basis, for the same representational reasons mentioned above.

If you have any questions about a particular position, please reach out to one of the IHTOs.



BCTF AGM 2024

by: Chloe McKnight, Sam Couture, Natasha Burditt, Cathleen With

The BCTF AGM occurred during the first week of Spring Break in Vancouver. VEAES sent a full delegation of thirty members with two alternates! Over the eight sessions, the delegation heard reports on Leadership, Salary Indemnity Plan Governance and Pension; participated in the election of the new BCTF Executive Committee; and participated and voted on 60 recommendations and resolutions. Of our 6 submitted resolutions, 4 made it to the floor: 2 carried, 1 was tabled, and 1 was not moved (as it had been addressed by a previous resolution). Our remaining two resolutions will join another 13 to be discussed at the Spring Representative Assembly in May.

A special thank you to all VEAES delegates: those who motivated motions, bringing forth ideas and initiatives that will shape the future of our work and education in our province; those who supported the delegation with snacks, karaoke serenades, support and encouragement, and everyone for devoting four days of their spring break to collaborate, debate, and listen alongside 700 other teachers from around the province



VEAES Delegates to the 2024 BCTF AGM

Natasha Burditt, Samuel Couture, Chloe McKnight, Cathleen With, Bernadette Milton, Sarah Adams, Lyndsay Campbell, Greg Canning, Jenna Carpenter-Boesch, Alexandra de Montigny, Marjorie Dumont, Christian Hendren, Sylvia Jackson, Jessie Janzen, Andrea Joseph, Nurit Katz, Jane-Ann Kay, Kyle Kirkwood, Rob McGowan, Kevin McPherson, Ariella Menashy, Jody Polukoshko, Eric Proulx, Jaqueline Sabouniha, Jennifer Sebastian, Louise Seto, Khaled Shawwash, Sarah Steele, Darren Tereposky, Marcus Zheng, Leslie Roosa, and Leslie MacKenzie.



Fundraising

by: Jody Polukoshko

It's always good to remember that on some matters, both VEAES and the BCTF have taken positions that can help guide members in their work at the school. Here are our combined policies on fundraising. As always, it's our expectation that schools are fully funded and provide all of the learning opportunities students need. There are a lot of reasons why teachers choose to fundraise or not to fundraise, but it's important to recognize the connection between underfunding and privatization, and to ensure that our choices are not contributing to corporatization, privatization, competition, or the subsidizing of public education by our families and communities.

That VESTA members on any staff considering fundraising for libraries consider existing VESTA and BCTF policies on corporate funding, fundraising and other relevant areas. Jan 24 Exec

That Staff Reps discuss, with supportive documents from the Anti-Poverty Committee, the issue of school based fund-raising, grants and corporate donations with teachers at a school based VESTA meeting and provide the Anti-Poverty Committee with feedback and ideas for how we can work towards creating a more transparent, fair and equitable funding system across our district. 2012 Apr 03 Exec 2012 Apr 10 SRA

That the VSB develop clear guidelines to ensure that children are not competing with each other in fundraising activities nor are they encouraged to participate in fundraisers in order to win prizes and receive special recognition. 2013 March 5 Exec 2013 March 12 Gen

That VESTA members do not participate in fundraising which relies on competition between students and or special incentives or prizes. 2013 March 12 Gen

BCTF policy

29.03—That privatization produces inequities through forms that include charging fees for students to take part in aspects of the educational program, fundraising to support the educational program, and the sale of educational services, including international student fee programs. (05 AGM, p. 32)

29.33—1. That the BCTF work toward the elimination of corporate funding in public schools by lobbying for full public funding of public education, and by promoting and fostering programs and structures to increase member and public awareness of the dangers of corporate involvement and privatization.

2. That the BCTF believes that many corporations increasingly target public schools and their students for present and future profit; e.g.:

- a. establishment of brand loyalty
- b. access to captive markets in a trusted environment
- c. diversion of public funds

continued on next page

Fundraising

3. That public education be publicly funded and not reliant on fundraising, donation, or corporate business sponsorship.

29.65.5 That the BCTF oppose the hiring of staff by schools or school districts for purposes of fundraising.

29.67—That equity and access to full participation in public education by all elementary, secondary, and adult students be assured by:

- 1.increasing provincial funding for school districts so that services provided maximize the learning opportunities of students.
- 2.basing funding on needs, not on the ability of the school district to earn profits through operating businesses and marketing education.
- 3.eliminating fees and fundraising as methods of providing funding for services and resources.
- 4.eliminating funding to tuition schools. (04 AGM, p. 38)

29.73—That financial statements on all aspects of financing of education should be open to public inspection and reported at school board meetings, including income and expenditures related to fundraising, fees for international students and all school accounts. (05 AGM, p. 33)

51.A.01. 17.That the provision of technology in schools not depend on fundraising or corporate donations. (00 AGM, p. 25)

Pro-D Updates

by: Karine Ng

There are three more Joint District Pro-D Committee meeting dates left in this school year: May 7, June 4 and June 18. The committee reviews and approves applications to the Temporary Supplemental Funds and Collaborative Inquiry Funds. To ensure your application is approved, please review the Pro-D Handbook and the application guidelines thoroughly, both are available on [VSB Learns](#).

We invite all Pro-D chairs as well as any interested members to attend the virtual Professional Issues Committee (PIC) meeting scheduled for next Monday April 15, starting at 3:30pm. There are some important updates including the imminent launch of the VSB Pro-D Application and Reimbursement App and an upcoming Joint Pro-D Planning day in late May. We will also be seeking input from the committee on the management of the Temp Supp and Collab Inquiry Funds. The Zoom link to join can be found at the bottom of this newsletter. Mark your calendars and make your voices heard!

Limited spots remaining for April's district-wide Pro-D “(Un)Learning: Embracing Education Outdoors”

by: Jacey Gibb

This is your last chance to register for our second annual Pro-D that combines experiential outdoor learning, community building, workshops, a sustainability swap, and more! We have limited spots remaining, and registration closes on April 17 at noon. To register, click [here](#)

Climate Action Rally

by: Deb Tin Tun

Global Climate Strike

Friday, April 19th is an international day of strikes and protests to demand societal action on climate change. The day is co-ordinated globally by Fridays For Future. Fridays For Future is a youth-led movement started in 2018, in response to 15-year-old Greta Thunberg's school strike for climate action.

Their demands state:

Declaration of Lausanne | August 2019, 400 climate activists from 38 countries

1. Keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 °C compared to pre-industrial levels.
2. Ensure climate justice and equity.
3. Listen to the best united science currently available.

Locally, there is a rally planned for outside of Premier David Eby's office at 3pm, by the Van Climate Strike Coalition; there may be other events taking place on this day as well.

The employer has not taken a position on student/staff activities in relation to this day at publication deadline, so the usual advice regarding attending an event like this applies:

Personal leave without pay is available, apply to leaves@vsb.bc.ca

Field Studies for events like this should follow the usual process

If you are discussing the day with students, remind them to talk with their parents prior to taking any action.



Employment Equity for Aboriginal Educators

by: Jody Polukoshko

Those of you who have been around for a few years will remember that back in 2008, VEAES began the process of talking with the district about the implementation of an Employment Equity Plan that resulted in the creation of Xpey', the district Indigenous Focus School.

Under the Human Rights Code, employers must not discriminate against employees on the basis of race, Indigeneity, family status, sexual orientation or gender identity, and any other protected ground. The creation of an Employment Equity program requires an exemption to hire preferentially.

This language, negotiated in 2006 was updated in the 2019 round and encourages a greater scope for the Employment Equity program. In Vancouver, we know that there are far fewer First Nations, Metis, and Inuit teachers than proportionate among our students. It's essential that we increase the number of Indigenous teachers across the district for Indigenous students as well as non-Indigenous students.

Please watch this space in the coming weeks as we reach out to members to talk about the Employment Equity process and seek member input on objectives. We are proud to be among the locals who have embraced the opportunity to acknowledge and make efforts to remove barriers to increased numbers of Indigenous teachers in the public school system. Marjorie and Jody are your reps and will be reporting out at the upcoming Staff Rep Assembly.

Online Pension Seminar

Excerpt from BCTF Communications

Beginning on April 3, to the end of May, there will be online pension seminars every Wednesday to help members learn about their pension plan, their pension options, and factors to consider when planning for retirement.

All seminars will take place from 4:30–6:00 p.m. PST.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81464426878?pwd=SnBCZjdsU2pkL3pqcVJlaEZrSjVnQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 6442 6878

Passcode: 380638

If you cannot attend the live online sessions the pension seminars it will be recorded and can be found on the BCTF YouTube channel in the Playlists section:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BCTFvids/playlists>

Please contact Sarb Lalli at 604-871-1949 if you have any questions related to the Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, and/or Old Age Security Benefits.



Jody Polukoshko
President
jody@veaes.ca

Marjorie Dumont
Vice President
marjorie@veaes.ca

Darren Tereposky
Vice President
darren@veaes.ca

Karine Ng
Vice President
karine@veaes.ca

Vanessa Lefebvre
Vice President
vanessa@veaes.ca

Eric Proulx
Vice President
eric@veaes.ca

Rob McGowan
AE President
rob@veaes.ca



Dates to Remember

Aboriginal Ed Committee Meeting

April 11th, 2024
@ 4 pm
VEAES Office



Professional Issues Committee Meeting

April 15th, 2024 @ 3:30

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84910088276>

Meeting ID: 849 1008 8276

Passcode: 460709

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada



Newly Scheduled Special General Meeting/ Staff Rep Assembly

Tupper Secondary School - Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 @ 4 pm



VEAES

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