



# VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH  
TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS  
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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# **BCTF** AGM Upcoming: Call for Delegates!

By VEAES



The BCTF Annual General Meeting is fast approaching, with the annual event being held **March 14 to 17, 2026**, at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver. The BCTF AGM is an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues from around the province, participate in varied discussions, and to better understand the context and issues that the teachers of British Columbia are engaging with.

Elections will take place at the January 13, 2026 General Meeting, held at Tupper Secondary School. All related expenses including hotel accommodation, childcare, and meals will be covered. If you have questions about attending, please contact any of the Local Reps:

[bernadette@veaes.ca](mailto:bernadette@veaes.ca), [deanna@veaes.ca](mailto:deanna@veaes.ca), or [khaled@veaes.ca](mailto:khaled@veaes.ca).

Interested candidates can [fill out this nomination form](#).

## **Bring Your Resolutions to the 2026 BCTF Annual General Meeting**

By Kevin McPherson

At our next VEAES General Meeting on December 9, we will be voting on resolutions to be sent to the 2026 BCTF Annual General Meeting (AGM). A 'resolution' is similar to a 'motion' we would debate at our General Meetings except it is taken forward at a provincial level.

Held in Vancouver during Spring Break, the BCTF AGM is where our resolutions, and resolutions from all over the province, are debated. Delegates from every teaching local in BC vote on whether to carry or defeat these resolutions. (We will elect our own delegates at the January 13 VEAES General Meeting).

The BCTF AGM elects your provincial Executive Committee (Presidents and Members-at-Large), sets the membership fee, manages the Short-Term Disability Plan and sets policy for our public and internal direction. You can view the BCTF Members' guide [here](#).

If you have a resolution you would like the VEAES GM to consider bringing to the BCTF AGM, please email [francoise@veaes.ca](mailto:francoise@veaes.ca) by December 1st.

## **Education Leaves**

By Xander Graham

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we would like to remind teachers about the application deadlines for education leave requests for the upcoming school year. If you are planning to take an education leave for one full school year, your application must be submitted by December 15 of the preceding year.

For those seeking education leave of less than one school year but more than 10 days, please note that applications must be received at least three months prior to the start of the leave. If the leave requested totals 10 days or less, the application must be submitted at least four weeks before the leave begins.

Applicants are also encouraged to demonstrate:

- *the relevancy of the proposed plan of study or research to their current or anticipated assignments*
- *a willingness to share information and to contribute to professional growth within the school, district and community*
- *current system need.*

Members can further support their leaves process by familiarizing themselves with the VEAES Understanding Leaves document, accessible [here](#).

## **Class Reviews – A Practice to Reinvigorate!**

By Xander Graham

The practice of class reviews has been set aside in some schools despite its useful history. This article is intended to help demystify the purpose and history of class reviews, as well as some suggestions on how to reinvigorate and empower teachers to advocate for students through a Class Review.

In recent and past years, classroom teachers, resource teachers, area counsellors, and admin would sit together and review their new classes in the fall. The benefits of class reviews include: the consideration of assignments of school staff, resource support and the determination of needs and possible interventions.

The class review connects to the Staff Committee language, in which case, staff are able to make recommendations under Article A.5.5.c on instructional assignments, learning resources, assessing learning conditions, employees' assignments, and utilization of staff, and provision of resources and support.

Class reviews can allow teachers at the start of the year to name the concerns they have, ask questions about their new students, and seek additional support, to help classroom and resource teachers to be on the same page regarding priorities and composition needs. Importantly, it also helps teachers to learn about the students they've just received, hearing from Resource, Area Counsellors, and other staff about ongoing work and history regarding a teacher's new students.

Class reviews are NOT connected to teacher assessment of students, the school plan, your administrator's growth plan, nor should they require the filling of any forms or referrals in advance, although class reviews may help support the prioritizing of students within schools for SBT or support the completion of PRIS or other forms after.

At Oppenheimer this year, VEAES members brought a motion to Staff Committee to restart holding class reviews in the fall of the year as well as in the spring prior to class casting. Consider having a discussion about how it could work in your school!



## Reminder for Staff Reps: Complete your forms!

By Françoise Raunet



Your role as a staff rep is essential for keeping your worksite informed and represented. To make sure we can reach you, and know who's stepping up for committee work, we need a quick favor: fill out two forms. Although we have already received them from many schools, there are still a fair number that haven't sent them in yet. If you can't remember whether you have done it yet or not, send them in anyway, just in case.

### Form A – Staff Reps Available [here](#)

This tells us who the main contact is at your worksite for important union updates, reminders, and news. If we don't have this info, you and your colleagues could miss out on key communications.

### Form B – Committee Reps Available [here](#)

This lets us know who's representing your worksite on VEAES standing committees—because your voice matters in shaping decisions that affect all of us. Strong communication and representation keep our union united and effective, and your participation makes that possible.

Returning the forms is easy. You can send them through the VSB Blue Bag, email them to [andrea@veaes.ca](mailto:andrea@veaes.ca), or simply print them out and bring them to the next Staff Rep Assembly on December 9th. Whatever method works best for you, just make sure we get them soon so we can keep everything running smoothly.

## Healthy Workplace Initiative Toolbox

By Greg Canning

Teaching is a very busy job and when report cards come around our work life balance becomes disrupted. Have you ever considered a place in the school that could be dedicated to worker wellness? A quiet place to rest and recharge before the afternoon, some yoga mats for stretching when needed, improvements to school gardens to promote connections to nature or places to meditate and reflect. There is some funding available to support initiatives of this nature. Priority funding for schools that did not receive support last years ends today but accessing the remaining funds will be ongoing for projects that would be completed this school year. If this is something the workers at you site may be interested in, please see the

[Healthy Workplace Initiative Toolbox](#).



# IMPORTANT DATE

**2025-26**  
veaes.ca

**Executive Committee Meeting** on  
**December 2** at the **VEAES Office** at  
**4:00 pm**

**Goodbye November!**



## VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

**Marjorie Dumont**  
**President**  
[marjorie@veaes.ca](mailto:marjorie@veaes.ca)

**Xander Graham**  
**Vice President**  
[xander@veaes.ca](mailto:xander@veaes.ca)

**Vanessa Lefebvre**  
**Vice President**  
[vanessa@veaes.ca](mailto:vanessa@veaes.ca)

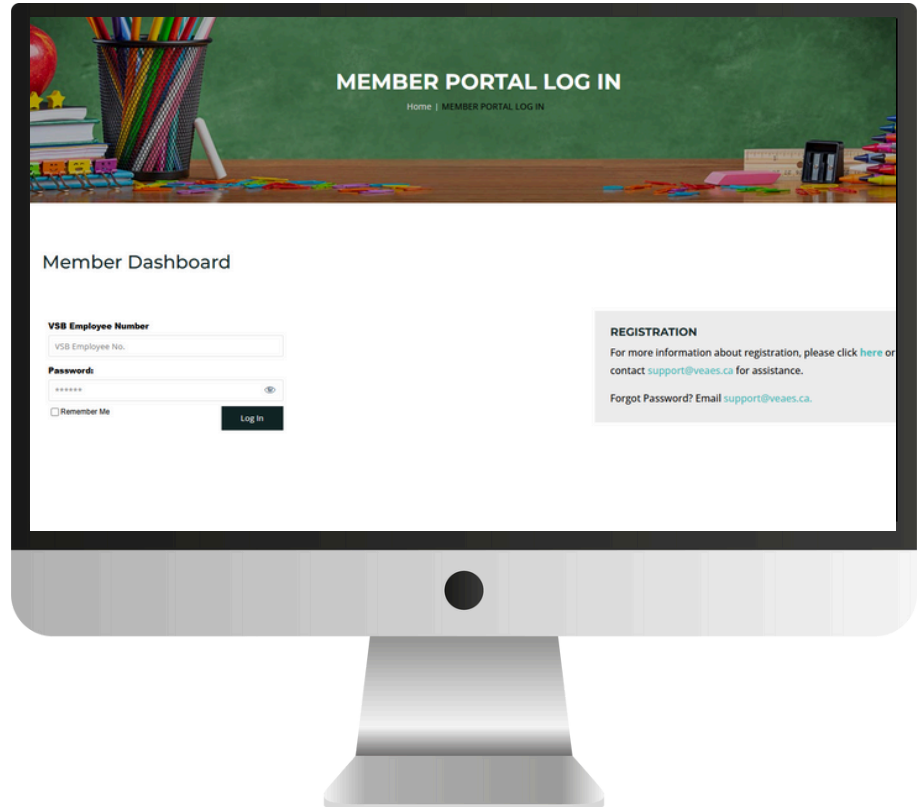
**Françoise Raunet**  
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**Greg Canning**  
**Vice President**  
[greg@veaes.ca](mailto:greg@veaes.ca)

**Rob McGowan**  
**Adult Ed President**  
[rob@veaes.ca](mailto:rob@veaes.ca)

To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to "Member Portal Log In". 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 login to the portal.

To receive your temporary password, please email [support@veaes.ca](mailto:support@veaes.ca). Support staff will send you your temporary password and you can reset it under "My Account" then "Profile Details."



### VEAES

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