



Stronger Together

2014 April 9

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA office
4pm unless otherwise
indicated.*

April 14

Status of Women
Anti-Poverty

April 15

New Teachers' BCTF
Focus Group

Staff Rep Assembly
Tupper cafeteria

April 16

Health & Safety

April 17

Sustainability
Movie Night!!!



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Roberts Education Centre – CLOSED!

This past Monday evening, the VSB's Board of Trustees voted to close Roberts Education Centre (REC), a school for adults in the West End since 1987.

An amendment was made which asks management to look for alternate space downtown, instead of consolidating this school with the five remaining Adult Education Centres. The boardroom was packed with around 150 students, teachers and community members, with many expressing their severe disappointment with this sudden decision taken without adhering to the VSB's school closure policy. VESTA executive passed a motion strongly opposing this closure. There are approximately 15 FTE VESTA members directly impacted by this school being closed, leading to layoffs in Adult Education. A sad day for public education.

VSBC Budget Proposals for 2014–15

The VSB released its preliminary budget for the next school year on Tuesday. Follow this link for all documents: www.vsb.bc.ca/district-news/vsb-senior-management-release-2014-2015-preliminary-budget-proposals

Again this year, the Board is facing deep cuts to its base budget of a further \$12.34 million in order to present a legally mandated balanced budget. These cuts hurt the education of our students, damage the delivery of educational programs, and adversely impact our members.

Among the proposals are the following:

- Three additional school closure days in Nov. 2014 attached to Remembrance Day
- Elimination of elementary band and strings program, a loss of 8.85 FTE
- Three area counsellor jobs are recommended to be cut as well as a teacher-psychologist and a speech language pathologist position
- Management also suggests charging \$10–\$15 monthly parking fee at all schools.
- Three peer-to-peer mentors who support teachers, one English Language Learner consultant, 1.4 FTE Literacy mentor and consultant, and one French Immersion resource teacher are being considered for elimination, plus other reductions

Notable by their absence are cuts to district management and school principals.

The only positive news to report is that there are no K–12 teacher layoffs proposed this year. VESTA is preparing its response for the Board's Stakeholder Consultation on Monday, April 14, and will provide staff reps with full information at the next SRA on April 15.

Coming Events

Take Action to Support IKEA Workers – Over 300 Days Locked Out

The lockout of Teamsters Local 213 members at IKEA in Richmond continues—shameful. The workers were locked out in May 2013 when they stood together to reject IKEA's concession demands. DON'T shop at IKEA— in person or online.

VESTA AGM on Tuesday, May 20 at Vancouver Museum

The meeting starts at 4:00 pm, with refreshments available about 5:30 pm. Nominations are open **now** for all positions on the VESTA Executive Committee. Nominations **must** be submitted to the VESTA office by Tuesday, 2014 April 15.

