



Stronger Together

2016 February 17

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

February 23
Executive Meeting

February 25
TOC EI Workshop
4-6pm, VESTA office

February 26
Meeting for BCTF AGM Delegates, 9-3pm

February 29
Communications Committee

February 29
Professional Issues Committee

March 1
General Meeting
Staff Rep Assembly
Tupper @ 4pm



Dan Graves, President
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Curriculum

Last week, a draft curriculum document entitled *Applied Skills, Design & Technologies* was posted on the Ministry's website [here](#). It has new content for the elementary grades. A new draft curriculum for *Career Education* will also be posted soon.

The BCTF is continuing to advocate for additional time, new funding, learning resources, and other supports that teachers will need as curriculum implementation unfolds over the next few years. The BCTF is also pushing for the implementation timelines to be relaxed, given that more revisions are to occur and some curriculum documents are only now coming out.

It is important to remember that while the Ministry sets the curriculum, teachers still have the professional autonomy over how to deliver the curriculum. We will do so in the best interests and needs of our students, and within the realities of the teaching and learning conditions in our classrooms.

Assessment

Regardless of what changes are made to the curriculum, teachers will continue to make decisions around classroom assessment. There is work underway provincially to develop a possible new assessment tool that would replace the FSAs. The BCTF is participating in this process. However, this has no bearing on teachers' choices pertaining to classroom assessment.

Reporting to Parents

It is expected that the current regulations related to reporting student progress to parents will be updated later this school year. The Ministry currently determines the frequency of reporting (e.g. number of report cards), and which subjects get reported on. Some changes will have to be made because subject names have changed. However, this does not necessarily mean that there will be a new report card format, nor does it mean that the "competencies" will be regularly reported on. There is still a lot to be determined in this area. More information will be shared when it is known.

Part-time Teachers and Upcoming Curriculum Implementation Days

We have heard from the VSB that part-time teachers who do not work on Friday will not be paid to participate in the Non-Instructional Days on March 4 and April 15. The BCTF has told us that they are taking this matter up with the Ministry of Education. As of yet, we have not heard anything from the BCTF on this matter. If you are a part-time teacher it is up to you to decide if you will attend the NIDs at your school. As it stands now, if you do so it will be without compensation from the board. The links to the curriculum information are available for you to explore on the VESTA and the BCTF websites.

Important Information: Vacate cards are in schools this week

The deadline for employees to submit transfer cards is March 15 before 4:30pm. Please note there will be no blue bag delivery on March 11, the last day school is in session before the deadline. Cards should be hand delivered to HR between March 6 and 15 to ensure the timeline is met. You may submit by blue bag prior to March 6.