



Stronger Together

September 28th, 2017

VESTA Weekly

Topics Worth Talking about! Please read and discuss with your colleagues

Dates to Remember

Meetings at the VESTA office starts at 4pm unless otherwise indicated.

Social Justice & Solidarity Meeting

October 3rd
VESTA Office

TTOC Meeting

October 5th
VESTA Office

Executive Meeting

October 10th
VESTA Office

General Meeting/ Staff Rep Assembly

October 17th at 4pm
Tupper Secondary



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Advance voting in October By-Election

Your vote is very important during the upcoming by-election for school trustees. City of Vancouver information on the by-election is available through their website at <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/2017-by-election.aspx>. **Wednesday October 4 and Tuesday October 10 are advance voting days.** Cast your vote at City Hall on either of these days from 8am to 8pm. Regular voting will take place across the city on October 14, 8am to 8pm. Every vote counts so consider voting in the advance polls and get it done! Early voting helps campaign organizers target their efforts when getting the vote out. Anyone interested in helping with the election is asked to contact the campaign offices directly.

School Visits and SURT

During the next week a member of the executive committee will be visiting your school to discuss implementation issues and the by-election. Because of the short timelines and the number of schools we need to visit, we ask that you not try to reschedule the time assigned to your school unless it is an afternoon visit and there are parent-teacher meetings scheduled for that day. At the September SRA teachers spoke about the need to have role-specific training. We will be scheduling ½ day workshops to help teachers understand their role as union reps for later in October. There will be workshops for Pro-D reps on October 16 and Staff Reps new to the role on October 17. Emails and fax notices will be coming to the schools soon. Other training will be provided for Staff Reps, Health and Safety Reps and Staff Committee Chairs in the weeks following. Dates are TBA.

Health and Safety: Violent Incidents and Forms

There has been a change to the way violent incidents are recorded and reported. If a teacher has been injured by a student, please continue to use the WorkSafeBC form 6A to report the injury. We are no longer using the Violent Incident form. If the teacher does not feel that they have been injured, then the behavior should be documented. A behavior log will be forthcoming but that is only for behavior that does not cause injury. In the meantime, please document violent behaviour, being sure to record as much specific information as possible including time and date, names of students or staff involved and any witnesses.

New Teachers' Welcome and Induction: Save the date!

On Wednesday October 18, we will be holding an event for teachers who are new to the Vancouver School District or are new to teaching. The event will be held at Van Dusen located at 5251 Oak Street from 4pm to 6pm. This will be a chance to meet other new teachers, share some snacks and learn more about the BCTF and VESTA. Watch for emails and notices with registration information in the coming weeks.

MyEd BC Policy

Just a reminder that VESTA members voted at the Staff Rep Assembly on September 22, 2015 "That VESTA members not use MyEdBC software." This decision is VESTA policy and still stands. The reasons for the decision have not changed, including issues around student privacy, teacher workload and teacher autonomy as well as the issue of assuming CUPE work.

