



**Stronger Together**

October 19th, 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.*

### Executive Meeting

October 24th  
VESTA Office

### Professional Issues (Pro-D) Meeting

October 30th  
VESTA Office



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## We have a board of Trustees!

Congratulations to our newly elected board of trustees! The October 14th by-election resulted in a new board of trustees. The nine trustees are Janet Fraser, Judy Zaichkowsky, and Estrellita Gonzalez from the Green Party; Joy Alexander, Allan Wong and Ken Clement from Vision; Lisa Dominato and Fraser Ballantyne from the NPA; and Carrie Bercic from OneCity. We look forward to working with these trustees and will be watching their decision-making closely over the next year in preparation for the election that will be held in the fall of 2018. Thanks to everyone who helped by handing out our leaflets, talked to parents, friends and family, and of course, thanks for getting out to vote!

## Recruitment

Good news regarding efforts to recruit new TTOCs to Vancouver! The VSB has agreed to suspend the EPI test, the timed cognitive test that was a barrier to recruitment in our district. If you know anyone who applied in the past and was blocked from submitting their application because of this test, please let them know that it has been taken down so they can reapply. For those of you who haven't heard, the test blocked people from applying for a couple of months after not being able to finish the test, regardless of the reason. Please encourage any teachers you know to consider applying to Vancouver so we can have teachers in classes, coverage for absences and stop the reassignment of our non-enrolling teachers.

Sadly, we have had reports that the board is continuing to send letters to teachers who did not work more than 50% of a month, in this case, in September saying they could be terminated. During this time, when we have huge numbers of unfilled vacancies daily, we need every TTOC regardless of limits to their availability. If you are aware of any teachers who have been terminated due to reduced availability, or if you have been sent such a letter, please contact the VESTA office.

On another positive note, the VSB has posted 25 positions for perm TOCs who will be given continuing contracts and will be required to work every day. This is a method of recruitment that many other districts have been using successfully to entice teachers to sign up with their district. The agreement between the VTF and the VSB expires in the spring, but the teachers will be retained and given B status for the purposes of spring transfer. Hopefully this and other efforts such as providing a moving allowance and recruitment in other provinces will reduce or eliminate the problem of failure to fill and reassignment that has been impacting our working conditions and the students' learning conditions.

## PSA Day October 20th

This Friday many Vancouver teachers will be attending the PSA Super Conference. Last year the District Pro-D Committee approved release of roll-over funds in the Professional and Staff Development Fund so teachers could be reimbursed for their attendance at this conference or any other pro-d that is taking place on this date. By now teachers at your school should have met and agreed to a plan for how the reimbursement will take place, depending on how much money is available from the roll over, your overall balances in both pro-d accounts and the size of your teaching staff. We hope that everyone will have an enriching pro-d day!

## Curriculum Implementation Day November 10th

Please remember that pro-d and in-service are different and that November 10th is an in-service day which means that no pro-d funds should be spent on this day. Also, the pro-d committee at the school is not responsible for planning for the November 10th. Teachers have professional autonomy to explore the contents of the new curriculum in the way that they wish. While there is obviously some overlap, the curriculum implementation day is a day to focus on **what** we teach while pro-d days are for exploring **how** we teach.

If you have questions about professional development or in-service or other professional concerns at your school please come to the Professional Issues Meeting on October 30th at the VESTA office.