



Stronger Together

November 2nd, 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

November 7th
VESTA Office

Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining (WLC/B) Meeting

November 7th
VESTA Office

Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting

November 21st
Tupper Secondary
at 4:00pm



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Twitter

Want to know what is happening in our district and across the province? One good source for timely information and opinions about educational issues is Twitter. You can follow VESTA through @VESTA39. The BCTF is @bctf. In addition you can follow individuals such as our BCTF executive including president, Glen Hansman @glenhansman or our newly elected trustees such as Carrie Bercic, @CarrieBercic, or Joy Alexander, @joyfromtrail. Former trustees such as Patti Bacchus, @pattibacchus write about education issues on Twitter and in the media. Our Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, @Rob_Fleming, is very active on Twitter. These accounts often have links to education issues in the news so you can see how many of our issues are making it into mainstream media. Another way to explore is through hashtags like #bced, #bctf or #vanpoli. You can always check the BCTF or VESTA websites, both of which have Twitter feeds on a sidebar to the right of the main page.

Resource Teacher Workload and Reporting

In recent discussions with the board regarding resource teacher workload and the fact that many resource teachers have been pulled from their positions to cover other classes, the board has said that the situation will have to be dealt with at the school level. In other words, if there is an issue then the staff and principal will have to work it out themselves. In order to ensure that the issues are addressed in a consistent manner across the school, we recommend that teachers hold a VESTA meeting to discuss issues such as reporting and that a motion/motions are made that can be brought to a staff committee meeting and voted on there. For example, the motion(s) could address support required of the principal such as a communication to the parents regarding upcoming reporting. We will discuss this further at the November 21st Staff Rep Assembly.

Missed Preps

Just a reminder that missed preps need to be made up within a week as article D.4.1 of the Collective Agreement states, "Each full-time elementary teacher shall receive 100 minutes of preparation time per week...." Teachers who have missed their preps due to being pulled to cover classes need to ensure that they also make changes to their schedule so they have their weekly 100 minutes or pro-rated amount based on FTE. If your school is having issues regarding missed preps, please contact the VESTA office. Please remember that we all have a duty to uphold this and all aspects of the Collective Agreement.

Important Information for Teachers Contemplating Moving Districts

With so many jobs available across the province some teachers are considering moving districts. There are a variety of issues to take into account when you decide to make the move. Some of the language governing moves has been negotiated provincially, such as portability of seniority and sick leave. Other factors such as experience credit have been negotiated locally so teachers need to find out what language the district they are contemplating moving to has in their CA. The BCTF has put together a FAQ page that may answer some of your questions. It is available on the BCTF portal through a link on the right side of the page when you first log in. The document is titled "Important information for members contemplating moving districts."