



Stronger Together

November 9, 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.

Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining (WLC/B) Meeting
November 14th
VESTA Office

Social Justice & Aboriginal Meeting
November 14th
VESTA Office

Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting
November 21st
Tupper Secondary
at 4:00pm



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MyEd BC and Laptops

The board has informed us that along with the laptop roll out, teachers will be given a login for MyEd BC. They have informed the union that it is their expectation that teachers will begin using MyEd for attendance. Because of this directive from the employer, you will be required to use MyEd BC regardless of whether you accept a new laptop from the VSB. VESTA executive members are continuing to voice our concerns regarding privacy, teacher autonomy, workload and so on through the appropriate channels. The BCTF has also continued to bring many issues regarding MyEd up with the government both in discussions and in its brief, *Priorities for Public Education*. If you would like to learn more about our concerns with MyEd please refer to <https://bctf.ca/PrioritiesForPublicEd.aspx> and to the key findings report on the BCTF Digital Reporting Tools Survey that can be found by searching the BCTF site for “digital reporting.” If teachers refuse to use MyEd BC, then this could result in disciplinary action.

Reporting/Communicating Student Learning

We are getting close to the end of the term for teachers who are continuing with the standard form of reporting so we are getting questions about the reporting requirements. Teachers not involved in the pilot project will continue with reporting in the same manner as last year. ADST, and Career Education are reported on at the end of the year only. Student self-assessment of a core competency is also an end of year report inclusion. For those teachers involved in the pilot project, a power point going over reporting guidelines is available on the i3 website at <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/ltm/Pages/default.aspx>.

Finance Committees

The school's Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the Staff Committee as named in our Collective Agreement, in Article A.5.c.ii.j. It is important to have a functioning Finance Committee so that all teachers have access to the funding being allocated to their school, so that teachers can make recommendations for the spending of funds, and there are regular financial reports to Staff Committee. This year the schools have been allotted additional money for resources that is part of the Student Learning Grant. As one purpose of the money is to help teachers implement the new curriculum, it is important that we make recommendations regarding the spending of this money in particular. Note that, like the Pro-D Committee, “the school administrator(s) is an ex-officio member(s)” of the Finance Committee and may attend any meeting” (C.A.) In other words, the principal is a member, with one vote. Having an active Finance Committee guarantees teacher input. It is a VTF/VSB agreed to process that ensures teachers have a say on school spending priorities.

Retirement Workshops

The VTF and The BC Retired Teachers' Association are once again co-sponsoring two workshops on retirement, *There's More to It Than Money*, Tuesday November 21, and *There's Also the Money*, Tuesday December 12. The workshops will be held at the VESTA office from 4 to 6pm. *There's More to It Than Money* gives you a broader perspective on the challenges of retirement. As the title suggests, *There's Also the Money* covers issues such as government pension and health benefits, group benefits and online planning tools. If you are interested in attending either or both of these workshops, please contact andrea@vesta.ca to register. Registration is limited to 15 people for each session. We are hoping to hold the workshops again in February and March.