



**Stronger Together**

June 14, 2018

# VESTA Weekly

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

## Dates to Remember

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

**Staff Rep Assembly/  
General Meeting**  
June 19 at 4:00pm  
Tupper Secondary

**Executive Meeting**  
June 26

**Ad-Hoc Election Committee**  
June 27

**TTOC BBQ & Swap Meet**  
June 28



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## Collaborative Inquiry

The Board and the VTF have agreed to continue Collaborative Inquiry for 2018/19 using the same Temporary Guidelines as used for the January intake this year, with new dates. The first intake deadline will be June 26th. There will be two other intakes for 2018/19; September 28th and a final deadline of October 26th. Groups wishing to continue their inquiry from this year will need to reapply. Forms will be available on the VESTA website.

## Remedy

The BCTF grievance on remedy owed to teachers went to arbitration this week, and the parties are attempting to reach an agreement through mediation. If the mediation is successful, the decision would be released shortly, whereas a referral back to arbitration would mean that more time is required to come to a final decision. Watch for further information coming soon. Be sure to read BCTF e-blasts as they come out in the final two weeks of school and throughout the summer.

## Impacts of Failure-to-Fill

The provincial grievance launched by the BCTF on behalf of all members regarding the issues of failure-to-fill and its impact on teachers and vulnerable special needs students is also at arbitration this week. Tracy Sherlock of the *Courier* interviewed Chloe McKnight and she spoke about the issue as it is unfolding in Vancouver. Glen Hansman and Katharine Shipley, president of VSTA also contributed views about our situation to Sherlock. The article is available at <http://www.vancourier.com/opinion/pricey-vancouver-feels-the-pinch-of-province-wide-teacher-shortage-1.23331944>. The Times Colonist has also published an in-depth article on the issue as it affects students and parents of students with special needs. Follow the link <http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/children-with-special-needs-struggle-for-education-1.23331035> to read more.

## Defunding Private Schools

In case you missed it, the Vancouver Board of Education voted May 28th to pass the motion brought forward by Trustee Carrie Bercic that "The Vancouver Board of Education urgently call on the Provincial Government to discontinue funding elite private schools (not including Designated Special Education Schools or Band schools, as listed by the Ministry) and re-direct those funds to the public school system." An overview of the Trustee positions and some of the discussion can be found in the article <https://www.thestar.com/vancouver/2018/05/29/government-wont-stop-funding-so-called-elite-private-schools-despite-vancouver-school-board-demands.html>. The monthly Board meetings are open to the public and anyone can attend to listen to discussion and observe how trustees are voting. The next board meeting will be June 25th at the Education Center at Broadway and Fir at 7:00pm.