



Stronger Together

September 6, 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.

Executive Committee Meeting

September 11

Communications Committee Meeting

September 13

Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting

September 18

Professional Issues Committee Meeting

September 19



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Welcome to a New School Year!

We hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, unwinding with family and friends. We are looking forward to a busy and productive year ahead. Hopefully we will have a relatively smooth startup this year. Please hold your first VESTA meeting as soon as possible if you have not done so already and let us know who your various reps will be. Keep abreast of issues by reading the VESTA Weekly, holding and attending regular VESTA meetings at your school and becoming involved in various committees at your school as well as with the local at the VESTA union office. With the upcoming municipal election, the provincial vote on proportional representation and of course bargaining, this is bound to be an exciting year!

Pro-D Opportunity: Marking up the Wrong Tree?

The Professional Issues Committee is sponsoring a BCTF Pro-D Workshop, *Marking up the Wrong Tree? Conversations about teaching, assessment, and reporting*. The workshop will be held at the VESTA office on **September 28 from 9am to noon**, which is one of the days that several schools have switched to from the flexible September 21st pro-d date. Registration is limited and must be completed by September 14th in order to ensure that we have enough interest to run the session. Please register as soon as possible. All are welcome. If your school is in session on September 28th you can approach your pro-d committee to see if there are funds to cover your TTOC costs for the morning. There is no fee for the workshop. To register, email andrea@vesta.ca with your name, employee number and school site.

Change of Salary Category

If you have been attending school and are graduating with new qualifications it is important to apply to the Teacher Qualification Service (TQS) for a change of category. In addition, you need to inform the VSB in order to receive the appropriate increase in pay. The VSB has a form you need to send to Human Resources and deadlines to comply with in order to have your salary increase as soon as possible and be eligible for retroactive increases once all the paperwork is complete. The VSB form is available at your school. The deadline for informing the VSB of your change of category is September 30st for a September 1st increase. You do not have to have all of the required documentation to submit, but you do need to have applied for the TQS upgrade and have completed all coursework. Complete and final transcripts will also need to be submitted to the Board. Other deadlines are January 31st for an increase effective January 1st and May 31st for an increase effective May 1st.

Access to Your School Library

BCTF policy regarding the use of the library when there is no teacher-librarian available is "3.P.02—When a teacher librarian's services are not available, in the library, teachers shall not assume the duties of that teacher librarian or utilize the services of a volunteer or any other person to do the work of the teacher librarian. (05 AGM, p. 47)"

Volunteers may include students, parents or other well-meaning staff that would like to enable access to the library resources. While accessing materials is becoming increasingly difficult with many of our schools experiencing declining TL time, solidarity is the key to rectifying this problem. We need teacher librarians in our libraries and "making do" without them will not help to get them back there. If you have concerns with these issues, please have your Staff Rep contact the VESTA office.