



Stronger Together

VESTA Weekly

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

November 9, 2018

School 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. A functioning Finance Committee means that teachers can make recommendations for the spending of flex funds, and there are regular financial reports to Staff Committee. Part of the money that was saved because of the lack of TTOCs was allocated to schools as an increase in the flex funds. 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. It is a VTF/VSF agreed to process that ensures teachers have a say on school spending priorities. Recommendations from the Finance Committee go to the Staff Committee and are recorded in the minutes. Article A.5.c.iii.d governs the possibility that an administrator disagrees with a recommendation and says, "If the school administrator(s) does not follow the advice of the Staff Committee, reasons, which shall be recorded in the minutes, shall be provided verbally to the Committee."

Recommendations on School Design and Seismic Upgrade

At the September Staff Rep Assembly VESTA Reps voted to adopt the recommendations on school design put together by the Ad Hoc School Design and Seismic Upgrade Committee. These recommendations are for you to bring forward to meetings where design is being discussed. Some of the members of the School Design Committee spent years discussing issues with teachers who moved into new or upgraded schools only to discover the functionality that was overlooked in the process of the design. Combining that experience with BCTF Member Guide policies and the BC Government Area Standards document which governs funding for new schools enabled the Committee to make substantial recommendations in numerous areas. Here is a [link](#) to the full list of recommendations.

Collaborative Inquiry

The application process for funding to support teachers' collaborative inquiry is now closed, but groups that have applied and been sent a response that their application was not accepted should be resubmitting with any changes needed.

Professional Development Opportunities

The BCTF publishes newsletters, bulletins and alerts in addition to *Teacher Magazine*. **BCTF ProD News** helps keep you informed about professional development opportunities such as M.Ed programs or other free courses such as Mental Health Literacy for the Classroom. Check out the October edition of **BCTF ProD News** at <https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/Publications/NewslettersAlerts/ProDNews/2018-10-17ProDNews.pdf>.

Dates to Remember

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

Executive Committee Meeting
November 13

TTOC Committee Meeting
November 15

Adult Ed AGM
Sunday, November 18
@ 11 am

**Staff Rep Assembly/
General Meeting**
November 20



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VESTA

The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.