



Stronger Together

VESTA Weekly

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

November 23, 2018

BC Federation of Labour Conference

From Monday November 26th until Friday November 30 VESTA, the BCTF and other unions from across the province will be sending delegates to the BCFed Conference which happens once every two years. It is a time for unions to build solidarity and to debate issues on a wide range of topics. Resolutions cover issues from daycare to climate change to building understanding of the bargaining history and structures of the diverse unions that make up the BCFed (a resolution sent in by VESTA) and many other social justice issues. The BCFed resolutions book can be found at <http://convention.bcfed.ca/sites/default/files/BCFED%20resolutions%20book%20FINAL.pdf> if you would like to learn more about the debates that will be occurring over the week.

Staff Meetings and Staff Committee Meetings

Staff Meetings and Staff Committee Meetings serve very different purposes. Staff Meetings are called by the principal and attendance is mandatory. Those meetings are for principals to impart information to staff. Staff Committee Meetings are teacher run meetings. The purpose of the Staff Committee Meeting is “to provide advice to the Principal/Vice-Principal(s)” with regards to a wide variety of matters relating to the operation of the school. The language regarding **Staff Meetings** is in Article A. 30 of our Collective Agreement (CA). In part, it says

Notice of staff meetings, shall be provided in advance except in cases of time sensitive information or situations. Agendas shall be provided in advance, subject to amendment, except in cases of time sensitive information or situations. Staff Meeting minutes shall be provided under the Principal/VicePrincipal’s direction with consideration of advice from the Staff Committee. (Article A.30.3)

Staff Meetings shall be limited to a reasonable number a year and will not be in conflict with Professional Development activities, with the exception, in either case, of time sensitive information or situations. (Article A.30.5, page 33 CA)

Staff Committee Meetings are also governed by the Collective Agreement and the language regarding their function is found on page 16 and 17 of the CA. The CA is available on the VESTA website. **Teacher Magazine** has a great article on Staff Committee Meetings that is available at <https://www.bctf.ca/publications/NewsMagArticle.aspx?id=51795>.

Starling Minds

The BCTF provides teachers with mental health support through a confidential online program specifically designed for teachers, **Starling Minds**. The program is scientifically designed and uses techniques such as education videos based on Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, and case studies. The program helps teachers learn about stress, mental fitness exercises, and how to break unhealthy patterns that may lead to anxiety and depression. Find more information and links to sign up at <https://www.bctf.ca/publications/NewsMagArticle.aspx?id=51796>.

Proportional Representation: Vote Now If You Haven’t Yet!

This Friday November 23 is the last day to contact Elections BC if you haven’t received a package. Ballot drop off sites are available through <https://elections.bc.ca/referendum/about-the-referendum/referendum-resources/service-bc-referendum-service-office-locations>

Dates to Remember

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

**WLC/B
Committee Meeting**
November 27

**Professional Issues
Committee**
November 28

**Executive Committee
Meeting**
December 4

**TTOC Committee
Meeting**
December 12



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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.