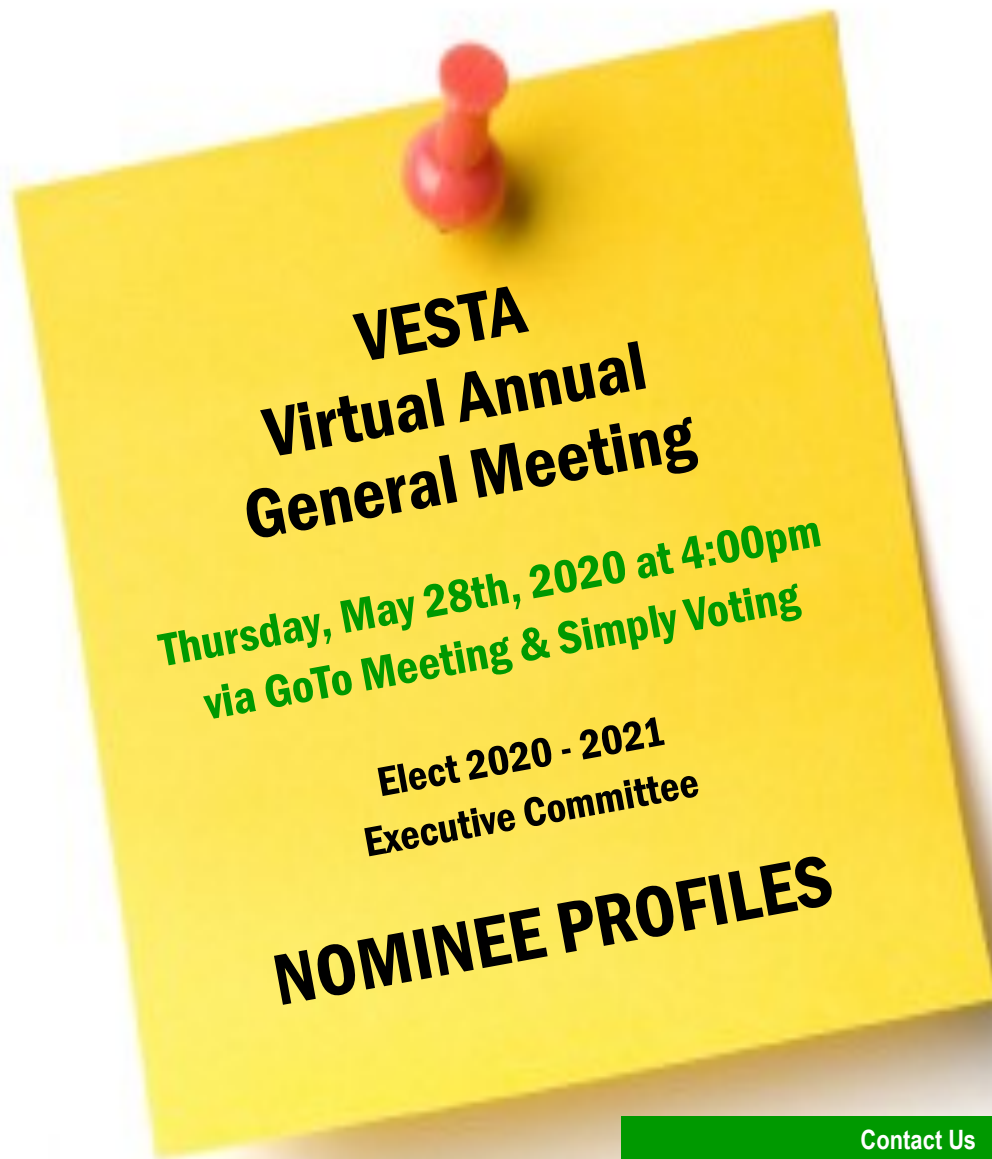




VESTA *news*

Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association



Mark Your Calendar

May	June
09 Adult Ed GM & Ratification Vote	09 Executive Committee Meeting
12 Executive Committee Meeting	16 SRA/General Meeting
19 Executive Committee Meeting	23 Executive Committee Meeting
28 VESTA AGM	

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Donna Brack
Adult Ed Sub-local President - donna@vesta.ca

2020 - 2021 VESTA Executive Committee Nominees



Joanne Sutherland for President

I am pleased to put my name forward for President for 2020-2021. I have spent the last three years in the VESTA office as grievance officer and have been involved with many grievances and the implementation of the restored language. I was also a member of both the local K-12 bargaining team and the local Adult Education bargaining team. Bargaining the language that becomes our Collective Agreement has given me a great appreciation for what the language means and the importance of defending and improving the rights of teachers. If elected, I will continue to represent elementary teachers in Vancouver in the best way possible. Thank you for your consideration.



Allison Jambor for 1st Vice-President:

I have enjoyed building solidarity and engaging with members in my role as a VESTA In-House-Table-Officer. We have a solid team representing our members and I hope to continue to have the honour of contributing to that team in the role of first Vice-President. I will continue to bring my experience to the table in our various roles from member support to liaising with other bodies from the BCTF, to the VSB, and to other Unions in the broader community.



Darren Tereposky for 2nd Vice-President/Grievance Officer

Last spring, I had the privilege of being appointed to our local bargaining team. This experience improved my understanding of the content and interpretation of our Collective Agreement language as the team carefully analyzed our current language, and proposed improvements to meet VESTA's bargaining objectives. As a member of our grievance committee and an In-House Table Officer, I have gained insight into the process and thought that goes into advocating for members' rights through defending violations of our collective agreement language. With your support, I look forward to taking on the responsibility of this important work as VESTA's 2nd Vice-President/Grievance Officer.



Jody Polukoshko for 3rd Vice-President

I am pleased to be returning to VESTA after my secondment to the BCTF bargaining team. I recognize the challenges ahead as we work to address our new collective agreement, the ongoing recruitment and retention crisis, pushback against regressive funding structures and welcome our newest members.

I bring diverse experiences and a deep understanding of local and provincial matters to the EC and feel that I can play an important role in supporting our members in the coming year.

2020 - 2021 VESTA Executive Committee Nominees



Leslie Roosa for Secretary-Treasurer

I have been your Secretary/Treasurer since the spring of last year. What I bring to this position is financial literacy, experience with our financial accounts, a growing understanding of our VESTA policies related to our finances, understanding of the audit process and the overall financial operations of our organization.



Heather Allison for Local Association Representative to the BCTF

I'm a proud VESTA member and dedicated to working with our team to support our colleagues through incredibly challenging times.



Chloë McKnight for Local Association Representative to the BCTF

I'm pleased to put my name forward to continue in my role as a Local Representative to the BCTF. In the past year I have worked to make connections around the province to share the experience of elementary teachers in Vancouver, as well as learn about the working conditions of our colleagues. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to build solidarity and support the work of teachers at both the local and the provincial level.



Anne Miller for Local Association Representative to the BCTF

I would be honoured to serve another term as VESTA rep to the BCTF Local Rep Assembly. This year, as in other years, I will continue to ensure that VESTA's voice is represented at the provincial level and will continue to communicate viewpoints on all issues facing BC teachers back to the VESTA membership.

2020 - 2021 VESTA Executive Committee Nominees



Glen Hansman for Member at Large

VESTA plays a very important role in supporting and representing Vancouver adult educators, elementary teachers, and associated professionals in our day to day work lives. That role is more important than ever now. Much happened provincially during the eleven years I was a BCTF table officer - in multiple rounds of bargaining, in dealings with two different governments and six different Ministers, in strengthening our pension plan, in challenges and successes across BC's labour movement, and in many other areas of advocacy and support for members. I also had the privilege to visit and learn from teachers in their schools and communities in all 60 school districts across BC. I look forward to the possibility of bringing that experience and knowledge-base back to VESTA to help inform how we proceed in this unprecedented time. I am proud to be a member of a BCTF local that proactively addresses equity and continues to push for positive changes in our schools, within our union, and in our broader communities. Regardless of how difficult a topic might be, I remain dedicated to respectful and constructive dialogue in all our efforts as a Union and internally within our decision-making structures.



Sylvia Jackson for Member at Large

Teaching is definitely different right now, but VESTA has remained true and supportive to its members throughout this crisis. For that reason, I'd like to gain more experience of the workings of VESTA.

I have come to appreciate how democratic, reflective and important this organization is and the amazing job it accomplishes in its members.

Not only does the Union advocate for the rights of educators but also for students and their families. We have come a long way in education, however, there is still lots of work to be done, and I'd like to continue learning and working for the membership.

Thank you for your support over the past year and look forward to another year of learning.



Patricia Gudlaugson for Professional Issues Committee Chair

The strength of VESTA resides in the depth of our collective knowledge and our support for each other. Our knowledge leads us to reflecting on multiple aspects of our profession including student learning, professional autonomy in our teaching practices and the roles of our organizations, VESTA and the BCTF. Our support for each other leads us to better understand our own and our colleagues teaching situations and frequently to increased social activism around the needs and inequities faced by our students and their families. VESTA's Professional Issues Committee encompasses such a range of issues from communicating student learning to advice on planning for our five professional development days each year to discussing school-based concerns brought forward by Committee members. It is a Committee that works for and behalf of VESTA colleagues and therefore for and on behalf of their students. This remains my passion.

2020 - 2021 VESTA Executive Committee Nominees



Jennifer Sebastian for Aboriginal Education Committee Chair

I would be honoured to continue as the Chair for the Aboriginal Education Committee. I am from the Gitksan Nation, house of Delgamuukw. I have 10 years teaching experience. I would like to create opportunities for indigenous teachers to share their lessons or offer workshops for teachers to infuse indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being in their lessons. My goal is to implement the policies and procedures of the BCTF Members Guide. As the Aboriginal Chair I also strive to uphold indigenous rights and social justice in the public education system. In the work we do as a committee, we will incorporate Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, and the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous people into everything we do. We will work towards building capacity by inviting Black, Indigenous, and people of colour to join the local VESTA Union.



Danielle Durant for Health & Safety Committee Chair

Health & Safety is an element of our work that greatly interests me. I have been a school-based Health & Safety Committee member for almost three years. I sat on both the Health & Safety and Emergency Management Committees at the district this year. There is much more to learn! I am keen to continue learning ways to act on the important issues that affect both the workplace and my community. I would be honoured to continue in this role to support all members.



Vanessa Lefebvre for Teachers Teaching On Call Committee Chair

I would like to continue my work supporting and advocating for TTOCs. These past three years have taught me a lot about the importance of communication as we work through ways to improve these lines between TTOCs and the employer, TTOCs and the Union, as well as TTOCs and our colleagues.

The road ahead presents challenges for TTOCs. I hope that by working together, we can find a way forward that creates opportunities for TTOCs in this new landscape.



Jean-Michel Oblette for Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Co-Chair

The After starts now. We need to look at concrete, actionable steps we can take towards urgently decolonizing our educational system and practices. Through collaboration with the various VESTA standing committees as well as other Aboriginal Education and Social Justice committees and groups at the Local and Provincial level, I hope to continue leveraging my privilege as part of a strong Social Justice and Solidarity Committee to advocate for greater equity, diversity and solidarity within our union and district.



Elaine Ong for Social Justice and Solidarity Committee Co-Chair

I would love to continue to serve in a committee that is very committed to promoting social justice for all.

2020 - 2021 VESTA Executive Committee Nominees



Namorsh Reddy for Social Justice and Solidarity Committee Co-Chair

Many students in AE struggle with homelessness, concurrent disorders and access to basic needs such as food and water. Some of our students are immigrants, refugees and Indigenous. I work with community organizations to connect students to resources so that they may engage in school. I am passionate about supporting students who are on the fringes of society because their lived experience, knowledge and voices must be included and heard within the institutions that govern us such as schools. My positionality as a woman of color allows me to view things from a perspective that is non-Eurocentric. I hope to engage in thought and action that begins to dismantle some oppressions students face such as racism.



Greg Canning for Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee Co-Chair

Teaching is an ever-changing profession. This is what makes our job so interesting but with change there can be challenges. The Working and Learning aspects of this committee really interests me. I am always trying to find that correct work/life balance and this committee allows me to delve deeply into that aspect of my job, not only for myself, but for the benefit for all teachers. When we identify challenges in our working conditions, we can rectify them through bargaining. The dual work of this committee is so important for the health and well-being of teachers, and for that matter, the health and well-being of our students. Supporting teachers through the challenging aspects of our work is particularly important to me. I remember the struggles I faced as a new career teacher with two small children and one with special needs. It's a wonder I ever made it. I want to help make a difference for teachers and students. With your support I hope to continue working on your behalf for the betterment of the teaching profession.



Marjorie Dumont for Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee Co-Chair

I am humbled and honoured to put my name forward again to be a co-chair of the WLC/Barg Committee. My colleagues and fellow members have inspired me to continue my journey in the local Union activism. It would be my goal to ensure we educate all the members about the bargaining process so that they understand how their working and learning conditions are connected to bargaining. It is also important to keep our long-term goals in mind and to prepare for the next round of local bargaining and to build capacity among our membership. We have always and will seek member involvement in the next school year so that we can build awareness of our Collective Agreement. As the Member at Large on the BCTF Executive Committee I believe I will maintain my support in connecting the work we do around bargaining.

Nominees needed for the following 2020-2021 VESTA Executive Committee positions

Member at Large (1)

Member at Large for a member who identifies as having First Nations, Inuit or Metis ancestry (1)

Member at Large for a member who identifies as a person of colour (1)

Communications Committee Chair (1)

Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Co-Chairs (2)
