



Stronger Together

October 8, 2020

VESTA Weekly

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

Full Range of PSA Conferences for October 23, 2020 - Excellent Choices for Self-Directed Professional Development

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the BCTF's Provincial Specialist Association Conferences, on the October 23, 2020 PSA day, will be held online. VESTA and the BCTF recognize the importance to all members for access to quality, teacher-led professional development, such as offered by the Provincial Specialists Associations.

Each PSA is running its own unique conference, and teachers will be able to register for their chosen PSA conference as normal. Many PSAs have also decided to offer two streams of core sessions, one being facilitated by the BCTF in addition to their own PSA programming.

Information about the October 2020 PSA conferences and links to the conference registration websites can be found at www.psaday.ca

VESTA members can access the unspent funds from 2019/2020 in their school-based Professional and Staff Development Fund (8114) for reimbursement of PSA Conference Registration fees.

Complete a plan for Self-Directed Professional Development; examples can be found in the VTF/VSB Professional Development Handbook on the VESTA site. Forward your plan to your School Pro-D Chair. Then, after attending the Conference, submit your receipt and reimbursement form.

Join teachers from around the province and explore a professional issue that interests you.

Assessment of Option 4 students

The requirements for teachers is set by [Ministerial Reporting Order](#), as determined by the Ministry of Education. The VSB does not have the ability to change or modify the reporting requirements. It's a real challenge that there is no sitting government right at the time that teachers are seeking clarification on assessment requirements and other aspects of the K-12 Restart Plan.

At this time, students accessing the Option 4 transitional program are receiving a significantly different educational program than those who are attending in-class instruction and many teachers have justified concerns looking ahead to the reporting. The BCTF and VESTA are working with the Ministry and the District to provide clarification as soon as possible.

VESTA has been assured by the district that the Option 4 program is not remote learning, it is a transition back to school. Our equity concerns aside, we agree that teachers cannot report on subjects they did not teach, and if evaluation was not possible, neither is reporting. We are advocating for a statement to be included on report cards similar to the Spring indicating a modified program was chosen and that reporting will necessarily be incomplete.

Transfer of TTOC credit

TTOCs in continuing or temporary contracts on November 15 of the current school year can transfer TTOC experience to your salary increment placement if you are not at the max pay step and you have a minimum of 85 hours of TTOC practice (as displayed on your pay advice).

You can apply for the request of transfer on Peoplesoft and it will take effect January 1, 2021. If you have questions, you can email skuan@vsb.bc.ca

Antiracism Resources on VESTA website

A quick reminder to members that there are a number of antiracism resources, information and supports on the VESTA website at <http://vesta.ca/anti-racism-resources-and-supports-for-teachers/>

Failures to Fill / TTOC shortages

A shortage of TTOCs is again causing the reassignment of non-enrolling teachers and loss of service to students. This is a serious issue and we are raising the profile of this with the district and trustees. If you have had absences that were not replaced with a TTOC, please let your Staff Rep know so they can convey that information to the VESTA in-house liaison.

BC Federation of Labour

The BC Federation of Labour Convention will be held November 24-26 and VESTA can send 12 delegates. If you are interested in applying to represent VESTA at this inspiring and educational event, and sharing in discussion about the labour movement as a whole and experiencing first hand the solidarity of the BC labour movement, please complete a [VESTA CV form](#) and submit it to amy@vesta.ca. Delegates will be elected at the October 27 General Meeting. Release time will be provided.

VESTA Reps to VSB Committees

Opportunities await members to participate on VSB advisory committees. VESTA provides mandatory training for members seeking to represent VESTA. Please complete a [VESTA CV form](#) if you are interested in serving on the Sustainability, Diversity, Active Transportation Committees.

Dates to Remember:

Executive Committee Meeting October 13th	Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting October 20th
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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.