



**Stronger Together**

October 15, 2020

# VESTA Weekly

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

## Upcoming VESTA General Meeting and Staff Rep Assembly

Next Tuesday is our next opportunity to attend a meeting for updates, discussion and decisions. Please mark October 20 in your calendar as an important event. General Meetings are open to all members, and all VESTA members have voice and vote. Watch your email for an invite to the virtual meeting and bring a friend!

## Professional Development on the October 23 PSA Day

On Tuesday this week the board clarified with VESTA and with principals that **teachers are able to choose the location of where they wish to partake in professional development on the 23<sup>rd</sup>**. This includes, but is not limited to, the ability of teachers to choose to work from home on the PSA day while they engage in professional development activities. Teachers may also choose to work from a library, a community center or other location including the school site. As is usual practice, the principal is still responsible for knowing where teachers will be and teachers are responsible for their submitting their self-directed plans to the pro-d committee. In order to help the public understand that a pro-d day is not a day off, but is a crucial part of our working life, we encourage you to share your Pro-D activities on social media, in conversations with family and friends or parents and/or colleagues at your school. For social media some have used [#ThisIsMyProD](#) and you can tag [@VESTA39](#) on Twitter. Discussions are ongoing with the board regarding the direction for future pro-d days.

## TTOC shortage

VESTA Form to record and report failures to fill to be released next week at the VESTA Staff Rep Assembly!

The TTOC shortage and the district's failure to fill teacher absences has been a workload concern for teachers and a source of great frustration for those working to support Option 4 Transitional students. VESTA has been clearly advocating for the need for a greater number of TTOCs to be hired to address this need, and the serious impact this has on the provision of support to students and teacher programming. In the meantime, please keep a record of names and dates of absences that were not filled and service lost due to reassignment of non-enrolling teachers.

## October 24 Provincial Election

Your Political Action Team has been researching and working on connecting with candidates to discuss issues important to our members.

Today, we wanted to highlight one swing riding, and provide some information to our members who live in Vancouver – Langara. Find the link [here](#).

## School Health and Safety Rep Release Time

The release time for school-based Health and Safety reps was put in place in June and extended through September and October. The VESTA EC is recommending the continuation of the ½ day for one School H&S rep for November and December to the Staff Rep Assembly. The September and October ½ days were used for the H&S training and the SURT release days.

## Preferred School Size Working Group (PSSWG) – Wednesday, November 18 4pm to 5:30pm

The Preferred School Size Working Group (PSSWG) is an ad hoc stakeholder group convened to review, consider and discuss educational and fiscal criteria, examine current practices and draft guidelines for preferred school population sizes for VSB elementary and secondary schools. While VESTA has a policy that we will not participate in decisions that could result in the closing or combining of schools, teacher involvement in district processes continues to be important, especially in the context of determining school catchment areas, location of district programs, prioritization of capital plan requests for seismic projects and new schools. If you are interested in participating in a one day working group session on this topic representing VESTA members, please contact [allison@vesta.ca](mailto:allison@vesta.ca) to book a mandatory training session prior to completing a VESTA CV form.

## Dates to Remember:

<p><b>Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting</b> October 20</p>	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety Committee Meeting</b> October 26</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://zoom.us/j/98676230795?pwd=b2YyZ25QR3ZRNIIdTNGNKekJSNnNadz09">https://zoom.us/j/98676230795?pwd=b2YyZ25QR3ZRNIIdTNGNKekJSNnNadz09</a> Meeting ID: 986 7623 0795 Passcode: 954667 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada</p>	<p><b>Executive Committee Meeting</b> October 27</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://zoom.us/j/91068787632?pwd=YWxLT1laQ1RCUWdWRDFXMiFleEdRQT09">https://zoom.us/j/91068787632?pwd=YWxLT1laQ1RCUWdWRDFXMiFleEdRQT09</a> Meeting ID: 910 6878 7632 Passcode: 264364 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada</p>
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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.***