



Stronger Together

November 26, 2020

VESTA Weekly

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

Supporting Mask-Wearing

BCTF has produced new posters for teachers to post in their classrooms and school hallways. You can find the [links to download the posters here](#). VESTA has printed 20 colour copies for Main Schools and 10 for Annexes and these are making their way to schools through the blue bag this week. Teachers can print additional copies at the school. You should not encounter any challenges from your administrator for posting these in your worksite.

Remember that while teachers cannot require students to wear masks, teaching about effective use of Personal Protective Equipment and respiratory and hand hygiene are recommended as well as creating a culture of mask wearing in our classrooms and learning spaces. BCTF President [Teri Mooring wrote an open letter](#) to parents this week that you can share and use when talking to parents, and the BCTF delegation to the BC Federation of Labour is bringing a motion to that meeting for a coordinated lobby for mandatory masks and reduced density in school settings.

Member Update Forms

VESTA has delayed the circulation of the Member information update forms this year in an effort to reduce the amount of interactions required by teachers. However, during these times it is important to be able to contact teachers with information or follow up. Your Staff Rep will be reaching out to verify your contact information in the coming weeks. Please assist them to complete this important task.

Welcome to VESTA

December 7 will be the 2020 Welcome to VESTA New Teachers Induction. This is an opportunity for VESTA to connect with new teachers and help support their transition to the profession, awareness of their rights and relationship with the union. We will be reaching out to new teachers with invitations to the virtual event co-led by VESTA's TTOC and Communications Committees. Information will be posted on the VESTA website soon, please let new teachers know about this exciting and informative event. Thank you to all Staff Reps who make an effort to reach out to TTOCs in your worksite.

Reporting Violent Incidents

Just a reminder to teachers that any violent incidents, near misses, threats that take place in your classroom or school need to be reported to your administrator via the [WorkSafe 6A form](#). If your school safety plan includes keeping an incident log or other records for IEP purposes, that's fine, but when no 6A is completed, there is no record of the incident.

Tracking violent incidents is an important way to convey to the district problem areas and need for additional supports. They are reported to the District Health and Safety Committee and you have a right to file one. Completed forms are provided to your administrator.

Option 4 Report Card Statement

Students whose families have chosen Option 4 Transitional learning have had diverse experiences based on the school model and availability of service. We know there have been challenges due to the TTOC shortage in ensuring consistent service for Option 4 students, and that the ability to assess or evaluate is a challenge. Keep in mind the following:

You cannot assess something you didn't teach. Classroom teachers are not providing a DL program, and so our usual assessment mechanisms may not be appropriate for the work completed without teacher instruction or supervision. The district has provided a statement to be put on the heading of report cards for Option 4 students.

"As per parent/guardian choice, this student has been following the District's Learning from Home Transition option. This was offered in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Learning from Home Transition option provides families with school connection and some support for learning the curriculum. This report reflects progress based on the available evidence of learning. It also reflects student participation and engagement during their time in this option. As such, teachers may not report on all subject areas."

Collaborative Inquiry Resource Funds

Collaborative Inquiry funds have temporarily been allowed to be applied to professional resources during the TTOC shortage. The funds that are available for Collaborative Inquiry are negotiated as part of our Collective Agreement and available to all contracted members. It has always been the case that these funds MAY NOT be spent on learning resources or student materials. This spring, inaccurate advice was provided to some collaborative inquiry cohorts and some teachers purchased student resources with their funds. This is not supported by the agreement with the district or VESTA's policy.

The VESTA Staff Rep Assembly made the determination that while teachers ought to be reimbursed for learning resources, the funding should not come from the Collaborative Inquiry Funds. As a result, VESTA will advocate for the reimbursement of teachers who are out of pocket due to having been provided inaccurate advice. Meetings with the board are ongoing and we hope to have those teachers reimbursed soon.

Learning resources can be acquired through the school-based flex funds. School budgets include learning resource budgets that should be provided for teachers and through your school Finance Committee, you can determine the availability and amounts of school funding and bring motions through Staff Committee on how that money can be spent in equitable and transparent ways.

Face Masks / Shields

Last week, VESTA distributed BCTF branded masks to schools based on the number of staff we had in our records for each school. If you were delivered fewer masks than staff members, please email lori@vesta.ca and we will send additional masks through the blue bag. TTOCs can arrange for a no-contact pick up at the VESTA Office. We still have a few face shields to distribute, so please also contact Lori if you would like one.

Deadline for School Recommendations to BCTF AGM

Your opportunity to bring recommendations through VESTA to the BCTF Annual General Meeting in March 2021 is open for another week. If there is a position or policy you'd like the BCTF to adopt, you can use [the form on the VESTA website](#) to submit it before December 8. VESTA Local Reps are available for support with content or form of the motion and will contact all staff reps who submit motions with feedback and information on process.

Dates to Remember:

*****NOTE*****

Please sign into the meeting using the link below. Please sign in early if the platform is new to you as the meeting will begin promptly at 4:00 pm.

Use of video is optional, but please rename your profile to show your first and last last name and school name.

Adult Ed General Meeting November 28 Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/98546387030 Meeting ID: 985 4638 7030 Passcode: 269695 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada	Executive Committee Meeting December 1 Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/92473255577?pwd=Zmo3VWdOODR6Nk51T0M2dlVLL2p2Zz09 Meeting ID: 924 7325 5577 Passcode: 513537 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada	Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting December 3 Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/97715102754?pwd=eWVrRHprMWUyeURUcDdYTkdyU1lwQT09 Meeting ID: 977 1510 2754 Passcode: 862193 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada	Communications Committee Meeting December 3 Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/93196261877?pwd=SDBPZ2lXVTZUaVZlWkw0Qy9nQ1Fpdz09 Meeting ID: 931 9626 1877 Passcode: 420470 Dial by your location +1 778 907 2071 Canada
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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.