



Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

March 2017

Participation satisfies page 5 of the passbook!



Town Hall Meeting with local legislators

Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 10 AM!

Roosevelt Elementary Commons

2921 Falk Road

Vancouver, WA 98661

Have you been following what is happening in Olympia? *Your future will be impacted*

WEA-Riverside has invited the VEA members and community to participate in this town hall meeting. Currently many of your elected officials in Olympia are supporting some variation of legislation that would:

- *Limit collective bargaining
- *Institute merit pay
- *Expand charter schools
- *Attack your due process rights
- *Eliminate YOUR current health insurance plans and convert you to state PEBB
- *Eliminate the legislated/voter approved COLA for educators
- *Eliminate the legislated/voter approved class size reduction language
- *Eliminate funding of the NBCT \$5000/\$10,000 stipend
- *Limit or phase out ability to use LEVY monies for TRI or supplemental pay
- *Eliminate MA or Ph.D. compensation recognition on the Salary Allocation Model
- *Impose additional staff assistant employment requirements without additional pay

RSVP here! <https://goo.gl/forms/LznPEloHhbU2jhQy1> or call Riverside 256-0880. The link was malfunctioning



Thank you to all members who took time to communicate ideas via your building rep as to how to make up the snow days. The compromise package keeps teachers from doing 4 full days added to the end of the school year beyond the 4 days already planned into the schedule. Keep in mind that if 4 additional days were added that the district could direct all the time. Here is the compromise package:

- The last day for students is June 21. The last day for teachers will be Friday, June 23.
- Two of the additional 4 days will be made up by adding 15 minutes to the day from March 15-June 14. Teachers have an individual choice to add it before/after/or split the time. No records will be kept. This is a professional choice.
- The two remaining days—June 22 & 23---will be arranged by principals and SBLTs in the buildings around a concept called Teachers as Designer and areas that each building finds important. Please be sure to have input through your SBLT and discussions with principals. The last 4 hours on Friday, June 23, will be teacher directed.

Membership = YES!

What are some of the differences between membership benefits and being a non-member of the association? Monetarily the payroll deduction is \$2 less per month for a non-member but the benefits are vastly different. The strength of the association is measured by the number of members. VEA is very strong with the membership at 1613 members!

	Members	Agency Shop Non-Members
Collective Bargaining	Yes	Yes
Grievances and Arbitration	Yes	Yes
Communications – Newsletters, surveys, etc	Yes	No
Voting Rights – contract ratification, leadership, etc.	Yes	No
Advocacy beyond CPA (ie Certification Issues)	Yes	No
\$1,000,000 Liability Insurance	Yes	No
Employment Liability Endorsement for Medical and Related Arts (Nurses, OT, PT, athletic trainers)	Yes	No
Attorney Referral Program – Free consultation with Local Attorney for personal matters.	Yes	No
Member Discounts (life insurance, car and home insurance, travel and leisure, credit cards, etc)	Yes	No
Professional Development Certification- NBCT Cadre	Yes	No
Professional Development - Human Civil Rights, Bargaining Training, Leadership Development, Special Ed Boot Camp, etc.	Yes	No
Professional Development – TPEP, CCSS, Diversity, Culturally Responsive Strategies, etc.	Yes	No
Professional Development – WEA-Retired Seminars	Yes	No
Professional Development – Jump Start Programs	\$200 to members	\$800 for non-members
Supporting face to face discussions with elected officials regarding the decisions that affect K-12 students and staff	Yes	No

#MembershipMatters!

The first order of #MembershipMatters T-shirts will be placed on March 15th. Be sure to complete your pass book, note your T-shirt size on the front cover, and turn it in to the VEA office. The T-shirt logo was designed by member



Samantha Wilson and graphic artist Devin Finley.



Vancouver Public Schools' bond measure approved

Local voters approved Vancouver Public Schools' bond measure on Feb. 14, 2017, by approximately 70 percent. The bond will provide funding to rebuild or upgrade every school in the district. For more information about the bond and a timeline for construction and upgrades, visit <http://vansd.org/reschools>. **Thank you to everyone who voted! We appreciate this community's continuing support of its public schools.**





WEA-Riverside is hosting this day to explore compelling diversity and social justice issues faced by all educators. VEA members are invited to join in on this powerful FREE professional development. A good faith check of \$50 is required for registration (payable to WEA-Riverside) and refunded to the participant at the conclusion of the conference.

Register TODAY:

<http://tinyurl.com/DiversityConference3-25-17>

8:40 am – 3:30 pm

Vancouver School of Arts and Academics.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Daniel Spikes, PhD.

Breakout session options include:

- Cultural Competencies
- Cultural Responsive Classroom Communities
- Preventing Bias-Based Bullying
- Working with Gang Impacted youth
- Understanding Gender Diversity and Being an Effective Ally
- Working with Trauma Impacted Students
- Tips for Success When Working with Homeless Students
- Using Mindfulness Practices in the Classroom
- Mental Health Awareness
- Creating Welcoming Schools
- Working with Latino Students
- Providing Support for Immigrant and Refugee Families
- Prescription for Hope: Teens. Treatment. Transformation
- ELL and Exploring Hidden Bias
- Creating Welcoming Schools for LGBTQ Youth

Culturally Responsive Strategies Training



92 VEA members joined with other VPS employees for three hours of professional development in February. The

WEA professional development network facilitated this training. Educators walked away with ideas of how to demonstrate cultural competency in the classroom, use frameworks to increase effectiveness with students from diverse populations, and apply research about resiliency as a primary factor in closing the opportunity/achievement gap to build relational strategies to develop student resilience. Members who participate can sign off page 2 of the passbook! **The next opportunity for Culturally Responsive Strategies Training is on March 29th** where participants will learn strategies to appreciate and appropriately integrate your students' culture and family backgrounds into the classroom culture.

Student Discipline - Referral Outcome Notification

A Note from the Doctor
by Dr. Rick Wilson

Know your contract!! Article 10.24ii "In no event may an excluded student return to the class during the balance of that class or activity period and the following two school days without the consent of the teacher, unless the principal, or designee, and the teacher have conferred."

Article 10.24iii "Whenever a teacher files for a referral for student discipline, the administrator responsible shall communicate the outcome of the referral. In the event the referral is not able to be concluded in a timely manner (2-3 days), the administrator shall make this and the reasons for the delay known to the teacher."

Rick and Lynn advocated also that HR remind principals of this article.

Shop to Support Children



The VEA extends thanks to Assistant Superintendent Campbell for kicking off Read Across America (pictured above). The VEA helped celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss on March 1 and 2 by organizing and supporting the Read Across America book fair at Barnes and Noble. 20-25% of all proceeds through today, March 7th are donated back to Vancouver Public School libraries. You can shop in person at the 4th Plain store or place online purchases at bn.com/bookfairs – use bookfair ID 12043261. Many awesome student performances and art were shared with the community. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Retailers Support WEA Children's Fund



The WEA Children's Fund supports students with warm clothes and basic school supplies. These retailers will make a contribution to the WEA Children's Fund at no expense to you.

- While shopping at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), select WEA Children's Fund as your charity to earn 0.5% on qualified purchases.
- While shopping at [Fred Meyer](https://www.fredmeyer.com), select the WEA Children's Fund as your organization to support

Letter: Schools keep working for students

By Kendra Leiko Yamamoto, VANCOUVER
The Columbian: February 18, 2017, 6:00 AM

I am a teacher. Every day, no matter who the president, no matter who the secretary of education, I teach. I open my door and welcome each student. Our differences are celebrated.

In a time of deep divide, racial tension and worry, it is important to know that teachers everywhere continue to not only teach children, but fight for them. Every day, I am in the halls in buildings across Vancouver Public Schools. Every day, I am touched at what I see — teachers working to better the lives of students. Our schools are, and will continue to be, a place where all children feel welcome, thrive and learn. We, as teachers, stand together and stand strong in our belief that every student is of value.

The concerns are real and anxiety is high for many reasons, but rest assured that your children are treated with care and respect in classrooms across Vancouver. If you find yourself needing a glimpse of happiness, I invite you to my classroom. My doors are always open.

Democracy in Action!

Thank you for voting in the recent election. Participation satisfies #MembershipMatters passbook page 3. Representing you in Boston, MA at the NEA Rep Assembly:

Lynn Maiorca (VEA President)
Leslie Morrison (State delegate), Gate
Bradford Williams, Columbia River
Mona Rominger, Columbia River
Linda Wilson, Columbia River
Kari VanNostran, Gaiser
Eric Silvey, Skyview
Susan VanHouten, Jason Lee MS
Carol Patrick, Peter S Ogden
Christine Munson, Chinook Elementary

The bylaws recommendation passed overwhelmingly 89.7%