

VEA Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

September 2017



Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year!! Whether this is your first year in your own classroom or you have opened school 20, 30, or more times, the beginning of school is an exciting and sometimes stressful time. We are very excited about the year ahead and trust that you had a moment to catch your breath over the summer break. This is a very important year as we enter a full bargain with the district. Membership matters when it comes to your working conditions and pay. In addition to the regular bargain, the state legislature charged local bargaining units to devise a new

pay schedule for the 2018-19 school year using specific parameters to work within. Your input and participation in the bargaining process is crucial. You are encouraged to sign up to receive text alerts related to the bargain. **Text @veame to 81010.** Standard text/data rates may apply.

I want you to remember that *VEA is here to help you* and you should never hesitate to call or contact us by email. Sometimes having a conversation can ease your mind or give you some ideas that you had not thought about before. New teachers often need help and support so give us a call. It is always better to be ahead of an issue rather than trying fix it after the fact! We have resources that can help in almost any situation and we are dedicated to ensuring your success. You have every right to call at any time.

There are going to be many opportunities this year for active participation in the union, and you don't have to commit a lot of time or energy to do so (voting, filling out a survey, join WEAPAC, like our Facebook page, attend a social event, etc). The VEA executive board has made a commitment to supporting the membership by providing professional development as well as opportunities for building a community as union members. Look for the VEA Passbook to earn a cool prize! Vancouver is a very large district, so we are scheduling site visits this fall to better connect with the members in 1:1 or small group conversations. Finally, this will be a very busy year for members from politics to professional development. VEA is committed to supporting local candidates who work on educational issues with opportunities for members to participate.

Look for future opportunities to engage with your professional organization as the year progresses in this newsletter, through text alerts, on our website (www.vancouverea.org), and Facebook (Vancouver Education Association).

Have a GREAT school year and stay in touch!

Lynn Maiorca

VEA President

lmajorca@washingtonea.org



VEA National Board Cohort – Sign up Now!



VEA is approved by OSPI to provide a cohort experience to Vancouver educators pursuing their National Board Certification in 2017-18. VEA is hosting an information session on September 7th 4:00 pm at Bates in room 103. Classes begin soon so don't delay in signing up! The registration form (under documents) and survey monkey (under newflash) are available on the website www.vancouverea.org

VEA Connecting on the National Level at NEA RA

This summer nine VEA association leaders attended the NEA Rep Assembly. The focus of the current administration, including the education secretary, emphasizes the need for us to stand together for children and public education. This was evident as thousands of educators from across the country established priorities and resolutions on a variety of topics including privatization of education, human civil rights, and teacher evaluation. See www.nea.org for more details.



It is that time of year where open enrollment for insurance comes upon us. With the craziness of starting school, many times we just keep the same coverage that we've always had in the past years without giving it a second thought. Premera will no longer be an option and the coverage year will run November 1 to October 31. Aetna, United Health Care and Kaiser will be offered. The allocation from the state is \$820 and the contract provides an additional \$12 per month from the district. Learn more about your options at the insurance fair.

The Insurance Fair
 Location: **Bates Center**
September 21st
 from **11:00am to 1:00 pm** and
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

In addition, information is on the website www.vancouverea.org with contact information for the new carriers, and the WEA Select team is hosting an information session on September 20th at 7:00 pm.

Event:	WEA Select Medical Plan Informational Session for Employees (Non-Puget Sound area)
Event address for attendees	https://hewittevents1.webex.com/hewittevents1/onstage/g.php?MTID=e600bfadde077b7a2ddd3c0e325d39f48
Date and time:	Wednesday, September 20, 2017 7:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time (San Francisco, GMT-07:00)
Duration	1 hour (40 minute presentation followed by 20 minute Q and A)
Event number	623 935 083
Event password	weal7
Audio conference:	US Toll-Free #: 888-790-6784 Participant passcode: 1402937

STUDENT DISCIPLINE



Your VEA leadership continues to advocate for you in the arena of student discipline and Restorative Justice training. Thank you to the 637 members who responded to the discipline survey in June. Survey results have been shared with the district and the conversation continues with this hard data provided by the membership.

#MembershipMatters.

School district boards of directors are required to adopt policies which restore discipline to the classroom per RCW 28A.600.460. Teachers must be allowed to discipline for the following:

- Correcting a student who disrupts normal classroom activities;
- Abuses, or insults a teacher while carrying on his or her official duties;
- Willfully disobeys a teacher;
- Uses abusive or foul language directed at a district employee, school volunteer, or another student;
- Violates school rules; or
- Interferes with an orderly education process.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to: oral or written reprimands, written notification to parents of disruptive behavior, a copy of which must be provided to the principal. RCW 28A.600.460.

Exclusion from Class: A teacher may exclude from the teacher's classroom or activity area any student who creates a disruption of the educational process or is in violation of the building disciplinary standards while under the teacher's immediate supervision. **The student may be excluded from the classroom for all or any portion of the balance of the school day and two following days or until the principal or designee and the teacher have conferred,** whichever occurs first. Except in emergency situations however, the **teacher must attempt one or more forms of corrective action before**

excluding the student. There is no limit to the number of times you use this exclusion, except for students on a behavior IEP. If the student has an IEP for behavior (not just an academic IEP), then you are limited to excluding him or her for up to 10 days per year. **In no event may an excluded student be returned to the instructional area during the balance of the class or activity period without the consent of the teacher.** RCW 28A.600.020. Following the passage of HB1541 lessons during the exclusionary period are provided to the affected student. This change does not remove your rights as an educator. See the example of the Vancouver Exclusion Slip on the following page.

- **State law requires the school to inform teachers of any incoming transfer student's history** of disciplinary actions, criminal or violent behavior, or other behavior that indicates the student could be a threat to the safety of educational staff or other students. (RCW 28A.225.330)
- **Principals must communicate the disciplinary action taken** by the principal to the school personnel who referred the student to the principal for disciplinary action. (RCW 28A.600.020)
- **A student committing an offense such as an assault, malicious harassment, malicious mischief, or other crimes against a teacher shall not be assigned to that teacher's classroom** for the duration of the student's attendance at that school or any other school where the teacher is assigned. (RCW 28A.600.460)
- **You have the right to report a student to the police** if that student has threatened or assaulted you. Just because you are a teacher, *you do not give up your rights under the law as a citizen.*

You have the right to obtain an anti-harassment protection order against a student (or a student's parent) if those individuals engage in behaviors that are abusive; threatening; seriously alarm, annoy, or harass; or would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. (RCW 10.14.020). Harassment of any kind, be it from a student, student's parent, administrator, or colleague is fully covered.

Vancouver Exclusion Slip

Dear Principal:

I have excluded _____ from my classroom for the next two (2) days in accordance with RCW 28A.600.020. This student has created a disruption of the educational process in violation of the building disciplinary standards. I have attempted one or more alternative forms of corrective action.

In no event without my consent, may an excluded student return to my class during the class or activity period for up to the following two days until we have conferred.

Article 10.25 of our contract states that the term confer means that I have had the opportunity to provide input on a plan for disciplining the student, that my input has received full consideration, and your discipline decision was discussed with me before this student returns to my classroom.

Thank you,

Teacher's name and Date

Learning about Peace Circles



A team from Peter S Ogden attended the NEA Restorative Justice Peace Circles workshop in Chicago. A restorative circle is a community process for supporting those in

conflict. It brings together the three parties to a conflict – those who have acted, those directly impacted and the wider community – within an intentional systemic context, to dialogue as equals.

Pictured above: NEA organizer Dwana Nicole, PSO ELL lead Dawn Fields, PSO parent Kristy Sibling and PSO Fifth grade teacher Carol Patrick.

Building Representative Leadership Training

Thank you to the sites who have communicated your contingent of VEA representatives for 2017-18. Each site is allocated one rep for every 15 members. This team of reps keep you, the member informed on important information. 2017-18 is a full-contract bargaining year!

Training opportunities for new reps are slated for **October 12 or November 2**. VEA is offering a new session this fall for advanced rep training on **December 7th**. This is a great opportunity to unleash your leadership potential and receive first-hand information.

A Note from the Doctor
by Dr. Rick Wilson

Teacher Certification Changes

E2SHB 1341

Teachers with a residency certificate now have three certification options:

- 1) ***New*** Renew the residency certificate in five-year intervals by completing 100 clock hours or 10 quarter credits during the validity period of the certificate. Teachers must have at least 1.5 years of experience over 2 years to access this option ; **OR**
- 2) Complete and pass ProTeach to earn a professional certificate. There are still 150 clock hours available for the successful completion of ProTeach. Teachers must have at least 1.5 years of experience over two years to access this option; **OR**
- 3) Complete and pass National Board certification to earn a professional certificate. The base and challenging school bonuses continue to be funded for NBCTs. Teachers must have at least 3 years of experience to exercise this option. 90 clock hours are still available for achieving this certification (45 at submission and 45 at successful completion) in addition to the cohort clock hours offered.

It's your responsibility to check the status of your certificate with OSPI. Teachers whose residency certificates have lapsed at **any** time can renew their certificate through the 100 clock hour/10 quarter credit option. VEA is working with the district on understanding the implementation of these new provisions.

Know your class size!

Comprehensive Agreement Article 10.17

Elementary individual classroom maximum and secondary student-teacher maximum daily contacts:

Grades K-3 – Maximum of 24 students

Grades 4-5 – Maximum of 27 students

Middle School: The maximum number of student-teacher daily contacts is based on 28 times the number of classes a teacher is required to teach in his/her duty day, up to 168 students. This ratio is intended to result in maximum class sizes of 28:1 in a seven period day and 29:1 in a six period day. No teacher will be assigned more than one instructional period per trimester in excess of 30 students in a seven period day or 31 in a six period day. A teacher shall not be considered in overload if the total student-teacher count remains less than 169 in a seven period day or 146 students in a six period day.

All classes, other than music (band and choral groups) and PE that exceed these sizes will require review by the principals, VEA, and District administration.

High School: the maximum number of student-teacher daily contacts is based on 30 times the number of classes a teacher is required to teach in his/her duty day. No teacher will be assigned more than one instructional period per semester in excess of 32 students. However, the teacher shall not be considered in overload if the total student-teacher count remains less than 151 students.

HS PE/Career Choices: Maximum number of students per class is 38 with a total aggregate of 190. When the aggregate exceeds 190, overload language will be invoked. When regular PE classes exceed 38 students, overload relief will be invoked and a safety review will be conducted by the administrator with the teacher and a VEA building rep. Class size and overload do not apply when a teacher requests a larger class for weight or circuit training.

Overload provisions shall not be in effect during the first 15 student attendance days of the school year, and at the beginning of the semester. During the first 10 days and on the earliest day possible, the building administrator will initiate a meeting with the teacher in an overload situation and the building rep to resolve the overload.

2017-18 Salary

The VEA negotiated a 2% increase in TRI across the schedule in the previous

bargain. In addition, the legislature provided a 2.3% increase to the base salary schedule for 2017-18. Both schedules are posted on the VEA website at www.vancouverea.org under the documents tab.



2017-18 Executive Board

President, Lynn Maiorca (VEA Office)

1st Vice President, Carol Patrick (Ogden)

2nd Vice President, Talina Borchers (Chinook)

3rd Vice President, Christine Munson (Chinook)

4th Vice President, Kari VanNostran (Sheltered Instruction Coach - Itinerant)

Recording Secretary, Shannon McClelland (Washington)

Treasurer, Debra Fanning (Discovery MS)

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Intermediate Trustee, Tricia Judkins* (Sacajawea)

Middle School Trustee, Susan VanHouten (Jason Lee MS)

Senior High Trustee, Jon Lauderbaugh (VSAA)

Special Ed Trustee, Mona Rominger (Columbia River)

Specialist Trustee, Cam Swarts (Sacajawea)

WEAPAC Chair, Kari VanNostran

WEA Board Director, Mona Rominger

**Appointed by the board - pending confirmation*