



# Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

December 2017



## A Voice for Students State Board of Education Ponders Graduation Requirements

VEA members Christina Howe (Skyview), Kara Hecker (Bay), and Val McCormick (Skyview) joined Evergreen EA leader Adam Aguilera in providing testimony to the State Board of Education on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Poignant stories of student struggles with a high stakes test on top of the new 24 credit requirement, the disparity of equity depending on where you live, lack of support and opportunity to make up lost credits in a six period day, time that testing and retesting takes away from learning, instructional assistants pulled away to help administer the test and not serve students, resources and funding used on testing instead of enrichments to education, and stories of how the 24 credit requirement reduces or eliminates options for exploration beyond credit requirements. The Collection of Evidence being taken off the table is devastating to the students who need that alternative means to show proficiency was also emphasized. In addition, Scott Seaman from AWSP provided statistics on readiness – or lack thereof – for schools to adapt to the 24-credit requirement. One in four 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in our state are failing at least one class. 37% of low income students are failing at least one class. What resources are we providing to help these students get out of an already deep hole towards graduation? A small number of school districts (38%) have modified the school day to offer more than 24 credits resulting in more opportunities for students. Where you go to school shouldn't determine what you can take in high school. High stakes testing coupled with the 24-credit graduation requirement is a recipe for failure. The purpose behind the test is to assess the state system, not individual students. It is hoped that the SBE will consider delinking the high stakes test as a graduation requirement. Christina Howe offered to serve on a teacher panel for full discussion with the State Board of Ed on this and other topics in the future.

### VEBA results...

VEBA (Voluntary Employee Benefits Association) is a plan where eligible teachers may convert their unused sick leave days (one-for-four) into a non-taxable account. The funds in the member's account may be accessed to pay out-of-pocket costs for items such as insurance premiums, co-pays, deductibles, medications, and many other health related expenses.

A meeting to explain VEBA was held at the VEA office on November 2nd. Members who were eligible to vote included those who will have accumulated 180 days of sick leave as of January 1, 2017, and/or those who are eligible to retire per the district. Letters and ballots were sent to these eligible teachers at their schools. The results were approved with an overwhelming "yes" majority.



### SANTA Arrival

December 8, 2017

Columbia River HS Commons

5:00-6:30 pm

All district employees and their families are invited! Photos will be taken by the photography clubs from Bay and River (\$3 suggested donation). Columbia River ASB and VEA Board members will help guests provide their wish list to Santa, enjoy milk and cookies from Fort Culinary Arts, watch holiday videos, and color pictures.



VEA leaders Serena Montehermoso, Kari VanNostran and Samantha Wilson attended the WEA Human and Civil Rights Leadership Conference on November 17 and 18. The following reflection is shared with you: The Friday night keynote speaker Jondou Chase Chen spoke of our social identities (mother, father, teacher, man, woman, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, religion etc.) as being either bird nests or bird cages-one being a place of refuge, comfort, and rest; and the other being a place of pain and limitation. This metaphor is one that kids can understand too, which is part of its power.

The Saturday trainings were helpful because they re-emphasized some of the professional development that VEA has brought to the membership and added on to it. The resources for the culturally responsive classroom communities are available as a PDF download ([CARE Strategies](#)) and include activities for students to do to build community in a classroom and reflections for teachers to think about themselves.

A resource for identifying microaggressions in the classroom was shared and can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZahtlxW2CIQ> This is a powerful self-reflection with regards to Microassault, Microinsults, and Microinvalidations.

## Bargaining Survey

The VEA bargaining team is working on the most comprehensive bargaining survey in VEA history. Watch for the link via email prior to Winter Break! The survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete. #MembershipMatters



## Elementary Report Card Survey

Last April, the VEA surveyed the elementary membership regarding the new report card format. The results were shared with the district resulting in some changes. Now that we are at the end of the first Trimester, VEA is sending out the survey again to elementary members to follow up and address any residual concerns as needed. The survey will close on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRP69ZY>

## NCBT in Vancouver...

VEA members are fortunate to have a local option for NBCT cohort support led by VEA members Carol Patrick and Ann Cedeno. In addition, a NCBT Leadership Academy began in November for NCBT educators pursuing the 6<sup>th</sup> core proposition of Teacher Leadership. Shari Conditt is leading this new opportunity for examining three areas of teacher leadership: instructional, policy, and association leadership. It's not too late to join in:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VDDXVKB>

## NBCT Renewal Jump Start



30+ Vancouver educators attended the WEA NBCT Renewal Jump Start on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a very successful event designed and led by NBCTs where attendees learned about the renewal requirements and planned for their Profile of Professional growth.

#MembershipMatters

## Certification Changes

Certification requirements are subject to change. The certificated professional is responsible for being knowledgeable about current and revised regulations. It is the responsibility of the certificate holder to obtain and maintain valid appropriate Washington certification to practice in Washington state.

Due to the passage of House Bill 1341 during the special legislative session this past summer, policy and implementation of certification requirements have been revised. This is just a synopsis. A detailed report can be found on the VEA website ([www.vancouverea.org](http://www.vancouverea.org)) under the Documents Tab and the 2017 Educator Certification Requirements link.

### Continuing Certificates (teacher, admin, ESA)

- Required amount of clock hours decreased from 150 to 100 (now in effect).
- Value of Professional Growth Plan (PGP) will decrease from 30 to 25 clock hours beginning 7-1-18.

### Professional Certificates (teacher, admin, ESA)

- Required amount of clock hours decreased from 150 to 100 (now in effect).
- Value of a PGP will decrease from 30 to 25 clock hours beginning 7-1-18.
- Renewing with National Board Certificate is only available one time during the validity of the professional certificate and cannot be the same National Board certificate used to obtain the professional certificate (now in effect).

**There is no change to the validity period of professional certificates for NBCTs.** The **only new change** is language that prevents the multiple renewals of Washington state professional certificates beyond the validity period of a single National Board certificate. This only impacts the extremely small number of applicants who are attempting to use a single National Board certificate to renew a professional certificate for more than ten years.

- **Renewal applications** shall not be submitted earlier than twelve months prior to the expiration date of the current certificate (now in effect)
- These changes apply to **ALL** Professional certificate holders, even if your certificate

was issued since 9-1-14. You may choose to submit clock hours, PGPs, academic credit or a mixture of to meet renewal requirements (now in effect).

Residency Certificates and Expired Residency Certificates – check the details on the VEA website.

Teachers only – Applications for Residency Certificates submitted 9-1-19 and beyond – the STEM renewal requirement will apply to certificate holders endorsed in STEM related areas.

## Clock Hours: Evaluation Required



Once an in-district course is complete, participants have **30 calendar days** from the course end date to submit their online course evaluation/acknowledgement on the VPS PD site. Washington Administrative Code requires the evaluation must be complete and the participant affirms the hours attended. A reminder is sent to your district email... Do not neglect this task or you will not be able to claim your clock hours. The safest thing is to make sure you complete this information before departing the class. You can complete this task via your device or your smart phone.

### A Note from the Doctor by Dr. Rick Wilson

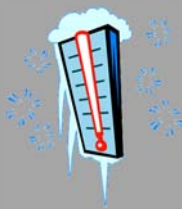
#### **Social & Emotional Learning**

Following the NW Turn Conference, VEA and District attendees met again to further discuss the topic of Social Emotional Learning and how Vancouver Public Schools can help support educators and the students we serve. The following video helped frame the conversation.

<https://youtu.be/DqNn9qWoO1M>

## Emergency School Closures

The District will make a reasonable effort to decide as early as possible when schools will be closed or the opening of school will be delayed. Employees are expected to report to your assigned buildings at their usual starting times or as reasonably near thereto, keeping in mind safety, but no later than thirty minutes prior to the opening of school for students.



When schools are closed early due to inclement weather, staff members shall be permitted to leave as soon as practical after the release of students, and assuring that adequate supervision exists until all students have departed

## Membership Opportunities

#MembershipMatters #VEA #VEAUnity



### Adidas Shopping Pass

Shop the Adidas Employee Store December 7 -24. See your building rep for more information



### Portland Trailblazer Game

January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm vs. the Dallas Mavericks  
Tickets: <http://www.rosequarter.com/vea> with the promo code VANCOUVERED. Parking passes are also available. **Ticket order deadline is 12/18!**



### Winter Hawks

February 11<sup>th</sup> vs Seattle Thunderbirds. Tickets are available through <http://bit.ly/2yNYjPy> promo code: VEA. (Use google chrome for best results).

Vancouver Public Schools recently approved the VEA-WEA Sponsored “**Culturally Responsive Classroom Interactions**” professional development. Each course will provide 3 hours towards the 8 hours of required professional development. (CRS3) is scheduled for January 11, 2018 as Course #3821 and (CRS 4) is scheduled for February 15, 2018 and is listed as Course #3823. Both classes are held at Bates from 4:30 – 7:30 pm.



### CRS 3: Culturally Responsive Classroom Interactions

(TPEP) (3hr) January 11, 2018 PD #3821

This training helps educators explore culturally responsive classroom interaction practices to ensure that students experience a positive, consistent, safe and equitable classroom. Participants will learn to facilitate classroom interactions that appropriately integrate their students’ culture and family backgrounds.

#### Objectives:

- Apply core practices for developing culturally responsive classroom interactions.
- Identify strategies for building social relationships between students and families.
- Develop ideas for communicating in culturally responsive ways.
- Find ways to respond to student needs through facilitating student focus groups.
- Investigate cultural assumptions, views, and beliefs to understand how one’s own cultural histories and biases may affect work with students from culturally, linguistically and socio-economically diverse backgrounds.
- Learn to use provided resources and materials to support culturally responsive classrooms.

### CRS 4: Culturally Responsive Classroom Behavior Interventions

(TPEP) (3hr) February 15, 2018 PD #3823

This training helps educators integrate culturally responsive behavior interventions practices into their classroom. Participants build on concepts from earlier courses in the Culturally Responsive Strategies series to learn to implement behavior intervention strategies that respect all students.

#### Objectives:

- Investigate ways to promote positive classroom and social behavior development.
- Identify strategies for implementing culturally responsive behavior interventions that address the underlying causes and functions of behavior.
- Adapt core principles of culturally responsive behavior intervention to meet the specific the needs of students.

These trainings meet the professional and continuing elementary and secondary certificate renewal requirement for TPEP (RCW 28A.410.278).

2509 Broadway -- Vancouver, WA 98663 \* Phone 360-695-3397 -- FAX 360-694-8337  
Dr. Rick Wilson, Executive Director \* Lynn Maiorca, President \* Cindy Brown, Admin. Assistant \*  
Sandy Kokko, Office Asst. \* [www.vancouverea.org](http://www.vancouverea.org) \* Facebook: Vancouver Education Association