



Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

March 2019

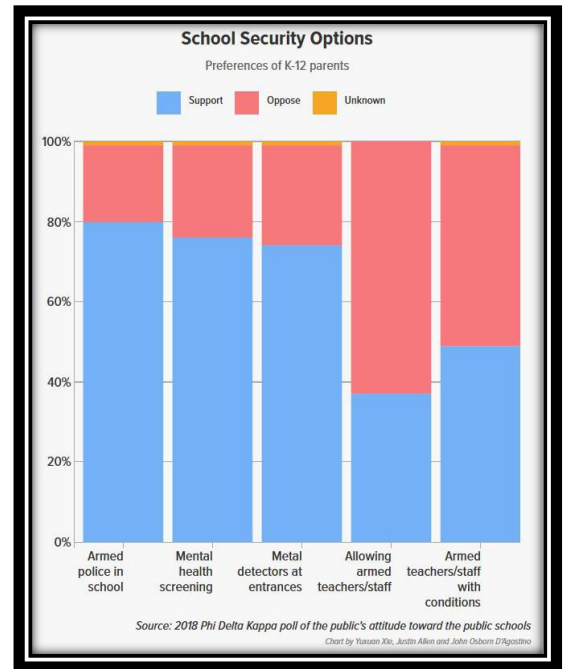
Safety in Schools – Take Action!

Your VEA supported participation in the WEA Safety in Schools Conference in February. VEA leaders Kari VanNostran and Anne Wiley attended.

"A (2018) poll of parents with school-aged children shows one in three - or 34 percent - fear for their child's safety at school, the highest point in 20 years...Additionally, when asked if they would choose to spend money on armed guards or on mental health services for students, 71 percent of parents chose mental health services."

-Phi Delta Kappa poll as reported by the Campus Safety website

The 2019 Washington Legislature is in session until April 28. VEA members and other Washington state educators are urging the Legislature and Governor Inslee to fund additional counselors, psychologists, nurses, therapists, social workers, and other mental health services for all students in every public school. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5IQ6S5Esg4#action=share>



We encourage you to **TAKE ACTION** in any of the following ways:

-Share the following information about upcoming bills and facts:

<https://www.washingtonea.org/ourvoice/healthy-students-safe-schools/>

-Call the legislative hotline: 1-800-562-6000 and leave a message for your lawmakers!

-Email your legislator: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/MemberEmail/Default.aspx>

-Post to social media using the hashtags #WaEdu, #WaLeg and #SchoolSafety - be sure to tag your legislators!



-Invite a legislator to your classroom or workspace!

-Write a letter to the editor of The Columbian: <https://www.columbian.com/lettertotheeditor/>

-Provide a public comment at a school board meeting or email our school board members!

-Sign up for legislative text updates: Text OURVOICE to 41411

-Visit WashingtonEA.org/OurVoice and subscribe to the OurVoice blog!

-VOTE IN THE 2019 Primary and General elections!

Democracy in Action!

Thank you to the 990 members for voting in the recent election. The election results were ratified by the Rep Council at the March 5th meeting:

Executive Board (Terms begin August 1, 2019)

President, Kari VanNostran
1st Vice President, Lynn Maiorca
3rd Vice President, Talina Borchers
Treasurer, Carol Patrick
Primary Trustee, Anne Wiley
High School Trustee, Anne Kizerian

Representing you at the WEA Representative Assembly in Spokane, April 25-27:

Kari VanNostran	Sheltered Instruction Coach
Bradford Williams	Columbia River
Susan VanHouten	Jason Lee
Christine Munson	Chinook
Jon Lauderbaugh	VSAA
Carol Sandison	Columbia River
Molly Murphy	Skyview (Nurse)
Cam Swarts	Sacajawea
Leslie Morrison	GATE
Shannon McClelland	Washington

Lynn Maiorca (VEA President)
Mona Rominger Columbia River (WEA Board)

Appointed Ambassadors to WEARA:

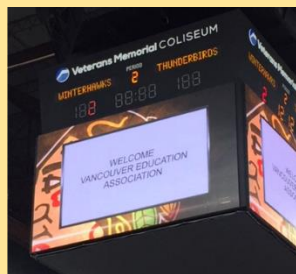
Josey Sechrist	McLoughlin MS
Jesse Affeldt	Ogden

Representing you in Houston, Texas at the NEA Rep Assembly in July:

Lynn Maiorca (VEA President)
Kari VanNostran Sheltered Instruction Coach
Mona Rominger Columbia River HS
Cam Swarts Sacajawea
Christine Munson Chinook

VEA Night at the Winterhawks

VEA members and their guests enjoyed the benefit of special group ticket prices for the February 17th game against the Thunderbirds. It was also hat give away night so all participants received an extra prize for attending!



WEA-RETIRED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

WEA-Retired is offering up to ten (10) \$1,000 non-renewable scholarships to aid WEA members in enhancing skills in specific education areas and/or attaining or maintaining a teaching certificate. Applicants must be a WEA member to apply.

To request the 2-part application, contact the WEA-Retired Scholarship Chairperson at barwentz@comcast.net or visit <https://www.washingtonea.org/membership/join/retired/>

The cover sheet and application narrative must be received no later than April 16th at 51 SE Bayview Lane – Shelton, WA 98584

Bargaining Survey

The VEA Bargaining team is looking for member input for the interim-bargain with the district. Even though we are in a three-year agreement, each party (VEA and the District can propose up to three non-monetary - no cost impact - changes to the contract to discuss at the bargaining table this spring.

Non-monetary means no financial impact. Items such as lowering class size, adding more aide time would obviously have a cost implication and would not be considered at this time (full contract bargain would be the appropriate time for topics with financial implications). Non-monetary examples could be defining the principal role in PLCs, calendar consideration of a rolling start for Kindergarten, etc.

This is an open ended survey with topic area prompts as well as “other” for suggestions not fitting easily within one of the stated topic areas. We are asking members to communicate your top three suggestions for consideration. **The survey closes at 5:00 pm on Monday, March 18th** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6Y8M7TY> (due to internet settings, you may need to copy and paste the link into your browser

VEA Celebration of Diversity



Our VEA community celebrates the diversity within our membership which creates a dynamic multicultural organization. Such diversity brings with it many differences in skills, abilities, and experiences that are appreciated and embraced. This diversity was celebrated on February 22nd at the Red Cross Building at the Historic Reserve.

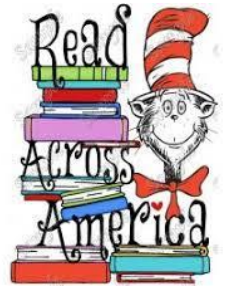


The VEA Celebration of Diversity was a huge success! WEA Human and Civil Rights Coordinator, Ben Ibale provided inspiring words around cultivating the soil in order to make connections, teaching engagement, depth of relationships with colleagues, as well as the difference

between compliance and self-actualization. As a union, “What soil are we going to cultivate for our educators?”



BookFair SUCCESS!



Once again, VEA partnered with Barnes and Noble to bring this great opportunity to purchase books and support the school library at the same time! A percentage of purchases will be donated BACK to the school libraries. This event was also a wonderful opportunity to showcase VPS talent with art displays, live performances and more! We were pleased that 34 schools participated this year!

Association Sponsored Professional Development

The VEA is committed to bring relevant professional development opportunities to our members: Certification 101, PGP series 1-3, Culturally Responsive Training series 1-2-3-4, De-escalation training, and a six-hour Autism course have been offered or are on the schedule for this year.

Through a collaboration with the district, many of these professional development opportunities have also allowed members to pay themselves either through personal PD funds or through the newly bargained optional PD (chartreuse). Currently Culturally Responsive Training part 3 on March 18th is open (chartreuse) on the district portal as course 4444. VEA has utilized a grant from the NEA to provide meals at these events.

WEA continues to offer quality professional development opportunities. Even though some of these are not part of the cooperative between VEA and VPS so that pay is attached for attending, clock hours are provided! You may be interested in attending the 11th Annual Teaching Equity Conference at Highline College on April 6th. The opposite of implicit bias is explicit equity. In order to close the opportunity/achievement gap, educators must examine daily choices that promote explicit equity practices of engaging both educator and student in the creation of school and classroom cultures where all will thrive.

<https://www.washingtonea.org/home/events/type/sql/event/5106/>

Dual Endorsement – New certification requirements after September 1, 2019

After September 1, 2019 any candidate who seeks to earn one of the following endorsements will be required to pair it with a second endorsement:

- Bilingual education
- English language learner (ELL)
- Special Education (SPED)
- Early childhood special education
- General science

For the bilingual education, ELL, SPED and early childhood SPED endorsements, the second endorsement obtained **cannot** be special education, early childhood special education, bilingual education, English language learner, or traffic safety.

For this general science endorsement, **only** teachers with an endorsement in biology, chemistry, earth and space science, or physics, will be eligible to add the general science endorsement.

I am a current teacher with a bilingual education, ELL, special education, early childhood special education or general science endorsement. How does this impact me? Any Washington State certified teacher who holds one of these endorsements *prior* to September 1, 2019 **will not** be required to add a second endorsement. These teachers will be grandfathered in.

I am a teacher outside of Washington State. If I move to Washington after September 1, 2019, how will this impact me? Any teacher from out of state **will be required** to meet the dual endorsement policy. Teachers from out of state are issued one-year permits to allow them time to meet WA state testing requirements. If you move from out of state and do not already meet the dual endorsement requirement, you may receive a second, one-year permit in order to add your second endorsement if all other testing requirements are met, giving you a total of two years to meet the dual endorsement requirement. *Reference: PESB, WAC 181-79A-132, WAC 181-79A-227.*

Levy Good News and Bad News

Thank you to our members who worked to pass the levy! Despite the passage of both proposals, VPS projects a \$14.3 million budget shortfall. Local levies allow voters to invest in the unique needs of the students in their community beyond the basic education funded by the state. Local voter-approved school levies fund additional teachers, librarians, school nurses, early learning, music art and many other student needs including education support professionals. Each district has unique needs and demographics resulting in the district's claim of a huge budget shortfall and a need for a legislative fix. WEA supports Senate Bill 5313 which would set a district's levy capacity at an amount equal to 20 percent of a school district's total state and federal funding. It also restores a much-needed local levy flexibility to school district's such as Vancouver, so they can meet the unique needs of our students beyond the state-funded basic education. VEA is working with the district to preserve jobs for our members and avoid a reduction in force. In order to accomplish this, there may be some reassignments of positions based on members' certification. Contact VEA if you have questions about reassignment provisions in the contract.

Are you feeling *Stressed* ??



Members are provided free confidential counseling sessions with Solutions Employee Assistance program for help with mental and emotional stress, marriage and relationship issues, family and parenting stresses, job difficulties and burn-out. Contact Solutions for an appointment 360-836-8260 or www.solutionsemployeeassistance.com. Solutions EAP is located at 3305 Main Street, Suite 201 in Vancouver.