



Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

May 2020



While the COVID-19 stay home- stay safe order has caused a lot of adjustments and a lot of anxiety for our membership, it has also caused numerous modifications of association events including the statewide (WEA) and national (NEA) representative assemblies into a virtual format. As with the aftermath from a storm, sometimes we get an unexpected rainbow. The VEA Executive Board approved using the funding that was set aside in our operations budget to attend the WEA RA in person, to support our community by making direct donations and/or purchases of gift cards from businesses that supported us during our labor action to the following recipients:

Clark County Food Bank
SHARE
Labor Community Service Agency
Foundations for Working Families
Fire District 6
Vancouver Police Guild
Clark County Sheriffs Guild

Nurse Practitioners Association
Nurse Assistants Association
The Homeless Council
COVID-19 Relief Fund
WEA Children’s Fund
VPS Foundation

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO BE A DELEGATE:

The switch to a virtual NEA Representative Assembly will allow for additional VEA delegates to attend. VEA is allocated 11 delegate positions. Our association had previously elected three VEA delegates (Kari Van Nostran, Mona Rominger, and Josey Sechrist) as well as one delegate from VEA to the Statewide delegate position (Cam Swarts). VEA will hold a supplemental election to allow 8 additional members to represent VEA. The VEA delegation will participate in the virtual NEA RA that is expected to be occur over two full days on July 2 and 3rd. Members interested in participating should complete and submit the [nomination form](#) by noon on May 11th.

Where’s that article?

VEA has provided numerous daily COVID-19 updates since the closure on March 17th. To assist members in finding specific articles to revisit, please use the new directory:

<http://tiny.cc/COVID19Directory>





SBLT Decisions

Site-based decision making is defined in the contract in chapter 15.4 as the decisions of the staff relative to student

learning and delivery at that site. This chapter is still in effect throughout the COVID-19 school closures. As decisions are needed with our new distance learning realities, this process should be utilized.

The certificated staff shall constitute the SBLT leadership. Responsibilities shall be shared by co-chairs made up of the building principal or assistant and a member of the certificated instructional faculty (may be the faculty representative) **who is annually selected by a majority vote** of the certificated staff at that site who are members of the Association's bargaining unit. Each faculty may select more than one co-chair to carry out the diverse instructional decisions within a large staff. The co-chairs will **jointly establish** the agendas and other aspects of governing meetings and customary duties and responsibilities of a democratic organization.

The decision-making process shall include open dialogue in which issues are presented, defined, discussed, and resolved by a confidential vote.

Proposals may be submitted for a vote to only those members of the faculty who are impacted by the vote. When votes are taken, **80% approval is required and the vote shall be in writing**. The decision regarding ballot procedures shall be exclusive to each site or administrative unit. All eligible members are entitled to vote even if they can't attend the meeting. **The VEA building representative(s) shall be responsible for all balloting**. The counting of votes shall be conducted by the SBLT co-chairs and the VEA building representative(s).

The principal and the co-chair will determine the meeting agendas and items to be voted on. This will be communicated to staff at least three (3) days prior to the meeting or less than three (3) days when mutually agreed upon by the principal and co-chair. The principal will arrange to have notes taken on topics discussed and action taken at the

meeting. The principal will see that any recommendations and/or decisions are prepared for publication and distribution made to all members of the team in a timely manner. The SBLT staff co-chair may be compensated for additional time outside the contracted day (Appendix E).

WEAPAC - \$20.20 in 2020 Campaign



Usually at the end of April, our WEA-PAC organizers are hard at work running a fundraising drive at WEA's Representative Assembly. However, in order to comply with Governor Inslee's order to Stay Home and Stay Healthy, the WEA 2020 Representative Assembly was cancelled. Just because we can't gather in person doesn't mean we can't still run our annual WEA-PAC fundraising drive.

WEA-PAC is our political action committee and our mission is to elect pro-public education, pro-union candidates to public office. As a member of WEA-PAC, your support goes directly to electing leaders at every level who will advocate and support students, public education and our core union values.

Amid the Covid-19 outbreak, nurses, firefighters, educators and other working people are stepping up to run for office. And they need our support. I know that a lot of Washingtonians are facing hard financial circumstances right now. But if you can afford it, [will you donate \\$20.20 to WEA-PAC today?](#)

Now more than ever, who we elect matters and there is a lot at stake in the 2020 election. In addition to all the federal races (like president!) that are up, there are a significant number of state level offices up as well. This election will be critical to maintaining our pro-education, pro-labor majorities in the State House and State Senate, as well as the Governor's office.

[Will you make a onetime contribution of \\$20.20 to WEA-PAC now?](#)

The 2019-20 Professional Development year is July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



The application deadline for 2019-20: June 15, 2020

Submit applications by June 15, 2020 to allow for processing and notification by the last day of school. Remember to allow sufficient time for supervisor review.

End Date for Activities Qualifying for 2019-20 Funding: June 30, 2020

The last day of an activity must be on or before June 30, 2020 to be reimbursed from the 2019-2020 professional development allocation.

Deadline to submit reimbursement paperwork: July 10, 2020

All reimbursement paperwork must be correctly completed and be in the professional development office no later than July 10, 2020.

The district is temporarily accepting electronic documentation during the school closure. Please email all attachments, including a signed PD expense report to Nicole.Niesz@vansd.org.

National Educator Appreciation Week: May 4-7



The VEA salutes our membership for your tenacity and drive through the toughest of challenges! While we are still in stay at home mode, we trust that you will treat yourself to something special because YOU DESERVE IT!

Time to elect building reps



It is time to elect your contingent of VEA representatives for 2020-21. Each site is allocated one rep for every 15 members. The VEA bylaws state the term is two years, but there are no term limits. This team of reps keep you, the member informed on important information.

All members are eligible to run for a rep position. Training opportunities for new reps will be scheduled in the fall. This is a great opportunity to unleash your leadership potential and receive first-hand information.

Change to Professional Learning Day Focus

The VEA and District agreed in a Memo of Understanding to a revision of the focus of the Professional Learning days to comply with the statutes(RCW28A.150.415) requiring district staff to be trained in one or more of the following topics in 2020-21: Social emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, using the statute prescribed model related to recognition and response to emotional or behavioral distress, consideration of ACEs, mental health therapy, anti-bullying strategies and culturally sustaining practices.

In 2020-21, the focus of the second PL day will be social emotional learning. This training will be held within the professional development window preceding the school year. In 2020-21 the district will also provide additional district funded technology or social emotional learning-focused professional development opportunities. Information to help design the training will be gathered from the spring professional development survey.

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