



# Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

June 2020

## Flexing our Collective Muscle



The strength of the VEA can be found in many facets of your professional life. VEA has been proactive in helping to mitigate workload impacts, protect your pay, and clarify operations in a new COVID-19 world. In addition, our state affiliate (WEA) has been very proactive as the COVID-19 guidance is developed by OSPI. Your peers across the state have participated in advisory meetings providing input on realities the membership is experiencing in the trenches. As guidance is developed around what school might look like in the fall from the state, followed by local agreements, the concerns you have expressed are front and center in our work. Other ways we collectively add strength to our union and profession is through rank and file member participation.

**Bargaining.** Thank you to the nearly 500 VEA members who voted on the interim bargain tentative agreements. The agreements were accepted with a 98.9% approval rating. The executive summary and specific language can be found on the [VEA website](#) (embed link).

**PAC Endorsements.** The VEA WEAPAC team forwarded recommendations to the WEAPAC board to endorse Monica Stonier, Sharon Wylie, and Annette Cleveland in their re-election campaigns. If you are interested in participating in future endorsement teams, lobbying, or the role of VEA WEAPAC chair, please contact VEA!!

**Elect 20-21 Building Reps.** You can be the missing link to complete the rep team at your site! There are still opportunities to become a building representative for next year. Don't worry – you don't have to forge through this alone. VEA can offer assistance with a rep election... just let us know! As for training, VEA will hold a building rep training and an advanced building rep training opportunity in the fall. The VEA office is always available to provide guidance as situations arise. Building reps are protected by the National Labor Relations Act from any retaliation or retribution such as reassignment to an undesirable job for doing union work. VPS administration upholds this protection and supports the work of VEA. Each site is allocated one rep for every 15 members. Rep teams are elected to a two year term with ½ of the team being re-elected every other year. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact either your current representative(s) or the VEA office.



**Elections Committee.** VEA will hold important votes in 2020-21 including executive board members, delegates to state and national conventions, and ratification of a successor collective bargaining agreement. If you are interested in serving in this capacity for 2020-21, please contact VEA. The committee will be affirmed at the June Rep Council meeting.



## 2020-21 Salary Schedules

The salary schedule is anticipated to increase 1.6% per the IPD calculator for 2020-21. Updated draft salary and per diem schedules can be found on the VEA website at [www.vancouverea.org](http://www.vancouverea.org) under the Documents tab. Please note that the draft salary schedules will be formally adopted at the July School Board meeting.



### THANK YOU Building Reps!!!

Our building representatives serve a vital role in advocacy for our members, as well as an essential communications link. Building reps volunteer for this role and we want to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to each and every leader for a job well done!

## Look Closely... If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is!

### #Membership Matters

As we head into the summer break, we want to remind our members that not everyone shares our union spirit. Anti-union factions such as the Freedom Foundation and Choice for Teachers have tried mailers, email, leafletting, and other means to coerce members into dropping their membership. Don't be duped! They lobby to weaken our collective bargaining rights and are funded by out-of-state billionaires like the Koch Brothers and Betsy DeVos. Please know that VEA never shares your private information. Your employment is a public record and available via public records requests. WEA has successfully prevailed in protecting our members' private information.



We need our union to stay united. Our collective voice achieves powerful results for our students and ourselves. With a strong, united membership, we have the power to improve and protect our rights and economic security, and to fight for the best interests of our students.

## District Directed Training

The District may direct up to eight (8) hours per year of professional development training for which the employee will be reimbursed at their per diem rate from the basic allocation. Such training will be communicated no later than the close of the prior school year so that employees may appropriately plan for their remaining expenses. Also watch for the Summer Calendar to be posted on the HR Professional Development page as another source of information. Any additional training would be subject to payment from other sources and would be scheduled in coordination with the Association and with alternative provisions to accommodate employees who cannot attend at the scheduled time. This affects:

- Advanced Placement
- AVID K-12 (Summer Institute or Path Training)
- Counselors K-12
- CTE (Project Lead the Way, Gateway to Technology, Tech Smart Coding in Python, College and Career Ready LABS, and Applied Math)
- Health (CPR & First Aid Training)
- Honors Grades 6-12
- International Baccalaureate
- Middle Years Programme
- Special Education K-12, including Related Service Providers
- VAPA K-12, including PE teachers K-5



**June 30:** The end of the professional development year. Submit reimbursement paperwork no later than **July 10<sup>th</sup>** (receipt and proof of attendance) to Nicole Niecz.

**August 17-31:** Window of time available for mandatory trainings.

**August 26:** Professional Learning Day, all levels (8 hours)

**August 27:** Pre-Duty day, all levels (8 hours unless voted on by SBLT to split into two 4 hour sessions)

**September 1:** First day of school

## WEA National Board Jump Start



WEA Jump Start is a four-day comprehensive seminar designed to provide National Board candidates with important information about the certification process, time to examine component and Assessment Center requirements, the opportunity to plan how to meet requirements, and time to collaborate, gather resources and information needed to pursue certification. All this happens in a supportive, constructive, and collegial environment.

WEA is currently planning to offer two, in-person National Board Jump Start events this summer. In partnership with the Oregon Education Association, WEA members are also provided the option to attend an OEA National Board Jump Start Seminar. We anticipate the registration fee for these events to be approximately \$200 for active WEA members. Given many unknowns due to COVID-19 and the possible need for ongoing social distancing, it is possible some/all of these in-person trainings may be canceled. We are exploring the possibility of offering the Jump Start curriculum through online delivery if this remains to be the case.

WEA and OEA National Board Jump Start In-Person Trainings (subject to change):  
**Portland, OR:** August 3-6, 2020 [OEA event]

**At this time, WEA is encouraging pre-registrations for these events. Please fill out this [pre-registration form](#).**

To see the latest COVID-19 guidance from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), please go to this link:  
[www.nbpts.org/COVID-19](http://www.nbpts.org/COVID-19)

VEA will offer co-hort support for the 20-21 NBCT candidates. Watch for registration information on the VEA website soon!

## Interested in becoming a NBCT Cohort Facilitator?

OSPI will continue to co-locate 2020 Facilitator Training with WEA Jump Start seminars. It is possible some/all of these in-person trainings may be canceled as we monitor social distancing requirements in our state. Exact locations and dates are pending confirmation from WEA, but are planned as follows:

**Spokane, WA:** June 24-25, 2020

**Seattle/Puget Sound Area, WA:** August 4-5, 2020

If you are interested in attending Facilitator Training, please complete OSPI's [pre-registration survey](#). Note: This pre-registration does not bind you to attend Facilitator Training, nor is payment required at this time. This information will be used for planning purposes this spring and summer. OSPI will be in touch with pre-registrants later this spring with updates on official registration.

Please also note that OSPI contracts with the Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession (CSTP) for our registration process. Attendees receive clock hours through CSTP.



### Starting a Family??

Virtual Zoom Meeting  
June 1<sup>st</sup> - 4:30 – 6:00 pm  
[Sign Up Today](#)

VEA is offering this session for members and their significant other on how to prepare and plan for pregnancy and maternity/paternity related leaves. This June 1<sup>st</sup> seminar will also provide information about other available resources you may want to consider when starting a family! We will cover: Maternity, Paternity, and Adoption Leave, FMLA Benefits, SEBB/Insurance Changes, Standard Insurance Extended Leave, VEA Contract and Shared Leave Provisions, Counseling Resources for your Transition, Financial Planning Member Benefit, VEA Member-to-Member Shared Experience, NEA Member Benefits .

