

## VEA Update

### Equity and the VPS School Board Retreat

Josey Sechrist and Marina Heitz, our current and incoming VEA VPs in Charge of Equity Affairs, joined VEA leadership in addressing the VPS School Board and Superintendent Webb during a Zoom Board Retreat on Tuesday. In response to the School Board's discussion of the VPS Equity Initiative, they shared the [VEA Equity Team Mission Statement](#) as well as [VEA's Call for Racial Justice in VPS](#).

In addition to shared goals of creating more equitable outcomes for students and systems to support them, VEA looks forward to collaborating with VPS, alongside other community stakeholders. We eagerly await a formal VPS equity audit as well as an opportunity to collaborate within the VPS Equity Advisory Committee. Our work as a VEA Equity Team continues as the team works to solidify goals for the 20-21 school year – more details to come!

### Summer Food Programs

June 19th was the last day of VPS' grab-and-go meals. However, if families reach out to us, we can direct them to other free food options during the summer:

- Vancouver Parks and Recreation's Food and Fun: Lunches and activity kits offered from June 22 through Aug. 14.
- Share Summer Meals: Grab-and-go meals offered for kids and teens 18 years old or younger from June 22 through Aug. 14.
- Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Washington: Breakfasts and lunches for kids and teens 18 years old or younger from June 24 through Aug. 14.
- Food pantries: Food pantry locations around Clark County; dates and times vary.
- Summer Meals: Search online or text "food" or "comida" to 877-877. Message and data rates apply.

In addition, if families need help with food, housing, clothing or other basic needs during the summer, they can contact the mobile FCRC at 360-313-4724 or [tina.cruz@vansd.org](mailto:tina.cruz@vansd.org), or call the FCRC office at 360-313-4719.

### Don't Forget to Sign Your Contract!

Most if not all VEA members serving next school year should have received an electronic copy of your VPS employment contract via email to sign and return within 15 days of receiving. If, for some reason, you have yet to receive your contract from VPS, please contact [marla.sampson@vansd.org](mailto:marla.sampson@vansd.org) in VPS HR for support or clarification. From there, please reach out to VEA with any remaining questions.

### Exceptional Circumstances Leave Carry Over Form now Available!

You will recall after the 2020 interim bargain concluded, VEA members ratified four agreements to update our current VEA/VPS contract. One of which, related to personal leave carry over, allows members to submit a form requesting up to 3 additional personal days to carry over into the next school year (in addition to the up to 2 personal days that automatically carry over), based on exceptional circumstances.

This "Exceptional Circumstances Leave Carry Over Form" is now available in the VPS Staff Portal under the HR Benefits page. **If exceptional circumstances prompt you to place your own request, please:**

- download and complete the top two-thirds of the form and
- submit it to your building principal for their review before September 1, 2020.

If approved, your principal should complete the bottom third of the form and forward it to VPS Payroll on your behalf. **If NOT approved, your building principal should return the form to you, providing their rationale for not approving.**

### Thank You Survey Respondents!

Thanks to the nearly 650 members who responded to our VEA Reopening Schools Survey!

We will take your responses from the VEA survey along with this more detailed information to gain a better understanding for advocacy on your behalf. Your feedback will help guide subsequent agreements around the new model. All responses will remain confidential.