

Summer Update



Interim School Board Appointment

Thank you to those of you who encouraged members of the community to apply for the vacant VPS School Board position and to those who submitted suggested questions to the current Board for consideration during the interview process!

Our current VPS School Board interviewed 13 candidates Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon this week. Following the final interview, the Board deliberated and came to a final decision: **to appoint Camara Banfield, a local attorney and parent of students in VPS to the vacant position.** Banfield will be sworn in at the next School Board meeting on July 14th, serving the remainder of the term for this position through late 2021.

Premium-Free Student Debt Navigator

Since June 25, 2020, members can now enroll in the premium version of the [NEA Student Debt Navigator](#) for a full year at no cost!



This navigator tool is offered in partnership with Savi, a social impact technology company working to solve the student loan debt crisis, developed in response to an astounding \$1.5 Trillion in student debt burdening 43 million Americans today. *The average NEA member carries student loan debt of \$25,000 to \$30,000, with many topping \$40,000!* The tool helps student loan borrowers navigate the confusing landscape of loan repayment and forgiveness options available through the federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness and Public Service Loan Forgiveness programs.

Re-Entry Planning Update

Teams of VPS staff, some including VEA members, have convened to develop initial plans with the following topics in mind:

- Facilities, Transportation, Food Service
- Student/Staff Health and Safety
- Student/Staff Social and Emotional Well-Being
- Activities, Events, Attendance and Enrollment
- Information Technology
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Communication

We anticipate a comprehensive report including guidance from each team to come out some time next week.

In the meantime, your VEA Bargaining Team has convened this week and will again next week to consider OSPI guidance and VEA member survey responses to develop language for an updated MOU with VPS. VEA and WEA will maintain our priorities around racial and social equity, flexibility and support, health and safety, and economic security and jobs throughout the negotiation process. We will keep members up to date as this work continues to unfold!

July NEA Member Benefits

Visit the [NEA Member Benefits page](#) of the WEA website to take advantage of July's list, including:

- deals and discounts
- tips, tools and videos to help make sense out of your finances
- guidance to refinance student loans, and more!

