



Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

Welcome Back!

August 2020

WE'RE IN THIS
TOGETHER
BUT SIX FEET APART

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year!!

Whether you are a new to public education or a seasoned educator, this school year will look unlike anything we have ever experienced! One thing hasn't changed: I am thrilled to work with and for you as we embark upon another amazing year supporting the students, families and staff of VPS! **Communication, Inclusion, and Empowerment** remain the anchors of my vision for the VEA and, as president, I look forward to continuing this work with members and leaders as we collaboratively develop that vision in a virtual setting!

Communication: Last year we expanded a communication system for informing and engaging our membership through building and zone leads. We also redeveloped our electronic communications to include the four-square approach of fewer items sent more frequently via email and converted all communications to non-school district addresses. Communication is key to engagement which provides a strong, professional voice in collaboration with the district.

Inclusion: Knowing our VEA **#UnionFamily** includes a wide variety of professional staff, we remain committed to working with all member groups-those who serve students in a traditional classroom setting as well as those who serve students in other ways-to ensure equitable access and support through the association. Last year the VEA formed a powerful Equity team to engage and include underrepresented voices. We also engaged Special Education, ESA through VEA Socials and prioritized Special Education and Specialist staff in listening sessions this summer in preparation for this year's planning. We look forward to expanding this work on behalf of our members as well as the students we serve.

Empowerment: The VEA is a member-driven organization that thrives on participation. As president, I want to empower each of you to help lead and direct the business of the association by engaging your respective skills and passions. We are facing ongoing negotiations around our COVID-19 realities and the workload impacts associated with varying schedules and models of instruction. This is also a full bargaining year with the current agreement expiring on August 31, 2021. Our success depends on your participation in this process. **#StrongerTogether**

We look forward to scheduling virtual visits to connect directly with members in one-on-one or small group conversations. We want to support your growth and development as an educator and union member while also supporting you with day-to-day issues that impact student learning conditions and staff working conditions!

Please keep an eye out for ongoing opportunities to engage with VEA as the year progresses through this monthly newsletter, via emails or text alerts, on our website (www.vancouverea.org), and on Facebook (Vancouver Education Association).

Have an excellent school year and don't hesitate to reach out!

Kari Van Nostran

Vancouver EA President

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What's my Pay for Summer Work??



There has been a variety of conflicting communications relayed around what pay rate is being utilized for PD and Summer Work.

For Professional Development and Miscellaneous Supplemental Hourly Work:

Time worked **on or before August 15th** will be paid at the 19-20 per diem rate.

Time worked **on or after August 16th** will be paid at the 20-21 per diem rate.

New certificated staff should write “per diem” on the supplemental contract and Payroll will fill in the rate. The district is working on updating the rates on employee access.

Extended Year Days should also write “per diem” on the supplemental contract and payroll will fill in the rate. Both the 19-20 and 20-21 per diem and Extended Year Day rates are posted on the VEA website under the documents tab.

Building Representative Leadership Training

Thank you to the sites who have communicated your contingent of VEA representatives for 2019-20. Each site is allocated one rep for every 15 members. This team of reps keep you, the member informed on important information!

Virtual Training opportunities for new reps will be scheduled in early October and November. VEA will also offer an advanced rep training. This is a great opportunity to unleash your leadership potential and receive first-hand information. Contact VEA for more information!

Know your class size!

Comprehensive Agreement Article 10.17

The contracted number of students you serve (ie class size or caseloads) does not change regardless if we are seeing students in person or virtually. Overload compensation also still applies as is written in the contract.

Elementary individual classroom maximum and secondary student-teacher maximum daily contacts:

Grades K-3 – Maximum of 24 students

Grades 4-5 – Maximum of 27 students

Middle School: The maximum number of student-teacher daily contacts is based on 28 times the number of classes a teacher is required to teach in his/her duty day, up to 168 students. This ratio is intended to result in maximum class sizes of 28:1 in a seven-period day and 29:1 in a six-period day. No teacher will be assigned more than one instructional period per trimester in excess of 30 students in a seven-period day or 31 in a six-period day. A teacher shall not be considered in overload if the total student-teacher count remains less than 169 in a seven-period day or 146 students in a six period day.

All classes, other than music (band and choral groups) and PE that exceed these sizes will require review by the principals, VEA, and District administration.

High School: the maximum number of student-teacher daily contacts is based on 30 times the number of classes a teacher is required to teach in his/her duty day. No teacher will be assigned more than one instructional period per semester in excess of 32 students. However, the teacher shall not be considered in overload if the total student-teacher count remains less than 151 students.

HS PE/Career Choices: Maximum number of students per class is 38 with a total aggregate of 190. When the aggregate exceeds 190, overload language will be invoked. When regular PE

classes exceed 38 students, overload relief will be invoked and a safety review will be conducted by the administrator with the teacher and a VEA building rep. Class size and overload do not apply when a teacher requests a larger class for weight or circuit training.

HS Science Classes over 31 students per period will receive a safety review. Safety concerns not resolved in the review meeting shall be forwarded to VEA and the director of secondary education.

OTHER SPECIALTY CLASSES:

Combination Classes: 10.22E Class size: The class size of a combination class should be smaller than that of regular single grade classes.

10.23A-G **Fir Grove:** One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to ten (10) students.

Structured Learning Centers: One (1) teacher, two (2) paraeducators for up to twelve (12) students.

Developmental/Transitional Skills: One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to ten (10) students

Intensive Academic Centers (IAC): One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to twelve (12) elementary students and fifteen (15) secondary students

Structured Communications Centers: One (1) teacher and two (2) paraeducators for up to nine (9) students.

Supported Communications Programs

GATE: Up to sixteen (16) students per FTE teacher and two (2) paraeducators.

Hard of hearing/deaf: one (1) teacher, one (1) paraeducator for up to twenty (20) students

10.23H and I **Early Childhood/Special Education provisions** (page 93-96 CPA).

CASELOAD

ESA Section 10.23N

Nurse ratio 1:1250 students per full-time FTE
Psychologists ratio 1:950 students per full-time FTE
PT ratio 1:5,000 students per full-time FTE
OT ratio 1:3,000 students per full-time FTE
Counselor ratio 1:350 students per full-time FTE
SLP: 50 students (subject to overload)



Checkpoint to review class size & Overload

10.19B Five working days after the opening of school, the building principal will meet with the Association faculty representatives and/or building staff to review and discuss the reorganization of the building to alleviate areas of overload to equalize workload among staff.

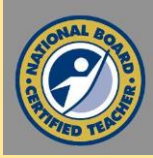
Overload provisions shall not be in effect during the first 15 student attendance days of the school year, and at the beginning of the semester. During the first 10 days and on the earliest day possible, the building administrator will initiate a meeting with the teacher in an overload situation and the building rep to resolve the overload.

20-21 WEA Membership Cards



The 20-21 membership cards began appearing in home post boxes of continuing members last weekend. New members will receive your card with the next run of cards in late September. Please let Cindy know if yours did not arrive.

VEA National Board Cohort – Sign up Now!



VEA is approved by OSPI to provide a cohort experience to association members pursuing their National Board Certification in 2020-21.

VEA is hosting an information session on September 9th 4:30 – 6:00 pm via zoom to provide an overview of the process and opportunity to answer questions you may have. Zoom links will be sent to those who [register](#) for the information session. Clock Hours are provided.

Additional information on cohort meeting times, cost, and NBCT deadlines are available on the VEA website www.vancouverea.org. The registration form (under documents) and survey monkey (under newflash) are required for participation. Spaces will be filled by a first-paid basis.

Classes begin soon so don't delay in signing up!

District Travel Claims Due

Just a friendly reminder that all employee travel claims, including in-district mileage incurred during the 19-20 Fiscal Year (ending 8/31/2020) must be received by the Fiscal Services Department by **September 15, 2020** per District Policy 6213P, IIIA.

Please make sure that all necessary documents (copy of approved prior and receipts) are attached. Meals and Incidentals are paid based on per diem, so meal receipts are not necessary. For reimbursement requests greater than \$40 (i.e. parking, taxi service, Uber, etc) a receipt must be submitted.

VEA Leadership Meeting Calendar for 20-21

VEA's governance meetings are open to the membership, however only the delegation of representatives is allowed to vote. All meetings will be held via zoom through December and will begin at 4:30 pm. We will reevaluate consideration of format in January if COVID-19 circumstances allow for in-person meetings.

Rep Council

September 15
October 6 (joint meeting)
November 3 (election day)
December 1
January 5
February 2
March 2
April 13
May 4
June 1

Executive Board

August 4 & 18 Retreat
September 29
October 20
November 17
December 15
January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18
June * TBD



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