

Summer Update

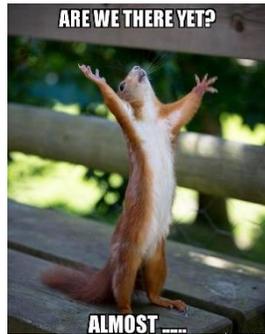
MOU Negotiations Update

VEA and VPS are headed into another session of bargaining today, 8/13 to negotiate this year's COVID-19 MOU. We are closer to an agreement on the two larger issues mentioned earlier this week: onsite work and weekly schedules. And, we are hopeful today's session can get us across the finish line!

As a reminder, below is a summary of this summer's VEA/VPS negotiation:

- Jul 8 – VEA shared initial MOU
- Aug 4 – VPS shared counter MOU
- Aug 5 – Joint mtg. to discuss/negotiate VPS counter #1
- Aug 6 – VEA shared counter #1
- Aug 7 – VPS shared counter #2; Joint mtg. to discuss/negotiate
- Aug 10 – VEA shared counter #2
- Aug 11 – Joint mtg. to discuss/negotiate (anticipating VPS counter #3)
- Aug 12 – VEA shared counter #3
- Aug 13 – Joint mtg. to discuss/negotiate (anticipating VPS counter #4)

We will continue to keep you up to date as this work unfolds!
In the meantime, [our current MOU](#) remains in place through August 31st.



VPS School Board Affirms Remote Learning 2.0

Thanks to those members who tuned in for Tuesday's VPS School Board meeting when, among other votes cast, our School Board Directors affirmed the Superintendent's recommendation for students to begin their learning remotely on September 1st. While we can all agree this is the safest path forward, we can also agree it will require commitment and cohesion from all of us! Director Wendy Smith spoke to priority themes she and the Board expect for families and staff alike, including:

- streamlined lesson access (ie. Canvas Landing Pages)
- narrowed curriculum and the need for educators to collaborate and calibrate
- regular communication from VPS to families and staff
- removing items from educator plates, acknowledging that remote instruction takes more time and energy
- clear metrics will be utilized and communicated to determine when it is safe to begin hosting some students in person
- students receiving special services would begin in person learning sooner than other peers

Also, if you missed the August 4th School Board Study Session, when VPS presented their Re-Entry Guidelines and responded to Board Director questions, [a recording can be found here](#).

Distance Learning PD from NEA

Below is a reminder of the remaining two offerings from NEA's Teacher Quality Division you might consider as you prepare for this school year-free and exclusive to us as NEA members!

Aug. 17: Facilitating Quality Practice: Quality practice looks, sounds, and feels different virtually. Practice with tools that teachers and paraeducators can use with students. We will learn about best practices for online learning, including instructor presence, learning objectives, real world applications, clear expectations, engaging students, prompt feedback, and netiquette. We will focus on two platforms: **Seesaw and Google Classroom**. [Register here](#).

Aug. 24: Accommodations and Scaffolding Online: How do you support students with IEPs, English language learners, and older students with developing literacy skills in an asynchronous distance learning environment? Using Google Classroom, learn strategies for providing accommodations, scaffolds, SIOP features, and elements of explicit instruction in an asynchronous setting that support all students. [Register here](#).

