

Fall Update

Special Education Teacher and ESA Input Sessions Continue

After rescheduling our second Special Education Teacher Input session with Laura Bergeron, VPS Special Education Admin, our group convened Monday, 9/14 to highlight the time far above contract hours required to manage typical and added work expectations and to identify the priority areas for greater flexibility as well as tasks to be eliminated. Input from this and the previous session have helped drive MOU Renegotiation work between VEA and VPS.

Our Special Education ESA Input session is still scheduled for today, 9/17 at 4:15 PM. In addition to advocating for the elimination and flexibility described above, VEA is advocating for added protections based on the itinerant nature of ESA roles through the MOU renegotiation process.

MOU Renegotiations Update

VEA and VPS convened remotely on Monday, 9/14 to further negotiations regarding Special Education and hybrid. We also presented language to clear up differing interpretations of previous discussions related to sick/personal leave during remote instruction

As of 9/16, we now have Tentative Agreements regarding:

- Section D & E as they relate to potential reassignments and rights back to original positions.
- Section H as it relates to Special Education expectations

On 9/16, VPS also presented counterproposals regarding:

- Section H as it relates to Special Education and Specialist expectations
- Section I as it relates to Special Education and general education expectations

Today, 9/17, VEA shared counterproposals regarding:

- Section C as it relates JPC and itinerant members
- Section G as it relates to non-classroom teacher evaluations
- Section H as it relates to Special Education expectations
- Section I as it relates to Special Education and general education expectations, as well as district expectations

VEA has asked to reconvene negotiations as soon as possible and is awaiting VPS response.

VEA Calls for Details and Delay for VPS' Transition to Hybrid

Click below to view the message VEA President Kari Van Nostran sent to VPS Admin and School Board Members. Read on to your right for how you can ensure your voice is heard as well!

Dear VPS School Board Directors, Dr. Webb and Dr. Stromme,

As a leader, but as an educator first, I am reaching out to express the disappointment, frustration, and anxiety I share with VEA members surrounding the premature transition to hybrid learning. VPS has announced, in a county where COVID testing access is limited and full test data reporting is delayed (all the more so now that air quality issues discourage leaving our homes), many in our community, myself included, share a lack of confidence in the metrics intended to inform VPS' stages of transition away from remote learning. Not only is our community not ready for the transition to on-site learning for cohorts of elementary students, our VPS system isn't either.

VEA implores you to delay the projected elementary hybrid start date of September 29th until District Admin, building admin, and building educators can collaboratively solidify and communicate a clear and detailed plan to execute hybrid instruction. A delay in transition to hybrid would also enable family input to support the plan development process. Our students, their families, and our educators deserve to know what specific protections and protocols will be in place for their health and safety, as well as what particulars will be expected from the teaching and learning experience.

After rushing our staff through the month of August into an only partially-developed plan for remote learning, we've only just reached a point where we have more answers than questions to address in support of families and staff related to remote learning. In the absence of a clearly articulated plan for hybrid, all members of the VPS system have far more questions than answers at this time – from families and educators to building admin and district level staff alike!

VPS already over-promised to families when they assured we would offer a much improved remote learning 2.0 after providing insufficient time, support and direction for educators. Our system is at risk of, yet again, under-delivering for families and for one another as we approach an under-prepared transition to hybrid instruction.

It's time for VPS to show true community leadership. You've been quick to pivot to closing building access to the public as a result of air quality issues and I look forward to your quick pivot away from an over-accelerated transition to hybrid, with not just health and safety, but community consideration, in mind as well – communicating accordingly.

Kari Van Nostran
Vancouver EA President

Make Your Voices Heard!

Thank you to those who have shared questions related to COVID Leave processes and the tentative transition to elementary Hybrid. VEA has attempted to provide what responses we have in the form of a [Q&A document](#) and will continue to update it as we are able. As demonstrated on Tuesday's School Board Meeting Zoom and at many Wednesday building staff meetings, even VPS School Board Members and building principals have more questions than answers related to any concrete plan for hybrid instruction! VPS staff and families alike are being unfairly forced to make difficult decisions with insufficient information.

Please continue to share your concerns directly with VPS School Board Members and District Admin, demanding a clear plan and/or a delayed start date until such a plan can be collaboratively developed:

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wendy.smith@vansd.org; kathy.decker@vansd.org;
kyle.sproul@vansd.org; tracie.barrows@vansd.org;
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In addition, save the date and share public comment at Tuesday, 9/22's School Board Study Session surrounding Remote Learning 2.0! Go here to view the [agenda](#) and [Zoom link](#).

