

## Winter Update

### VEA Survey Results

We are grateful to the nearly 900 VEA members who responded to last week's Reopening #3 Survey! Your input has already informed VEA's communication and advocacy this week with VPS General Education, Special Education and Categorical Programs Admin around ongoing safety and workload concerns from Special Education and early learning staff, especially in light of VPS' proposed expansion of onsite learning for at risk students beginning in early January.

**Below is a broad breakdown of the feedback we collected from you:**

Of those members who had an opinion, 83% expressed some degree of concern for safety under the onsite learning pod model, while 17% of members reported feeling safe. In addition, 89% of those who had an opinion reported safety concerns with a hybrid model, while 11% reported feeling safe.

The three highest **community-based needs** in order for members to feel safe working onsite include:

- 1) A downward trend in Clark County COVID cases (71%)
- 2) A proven and available vaccine (69%)
- 3) Sufficient Clark County access to testing (60%)

The three highest **school-based needs** in order for members to feel safe working onsite include:

- 1) Enforcement for students and staff to wear face masks (87%)
- 2) Standard daily sanitizing by custodial staff (84%)
- 3) Enforcement of staff and student count to maintain 6-foot distancing (81%)

**From those already working onsite with students** who had an opinion, the four highest priority issues members expressed some degree of concern with include:

- 1) Workload serving students onsite and remotely (93%)
- 2) Coordination with remote learning students (81%)
- 3) Student social mask compliance (72%)
- 4) Student social distancing (71%)

Of those who had an opinion, 75% of members agree VEA should communicate with members and the community as a VEA voice AND alongside other education associations, while 10% feel VEA should speak as a VEA voice only. 15% of those who had an opinion feel VEA should communicate with members only, not with the community.

We recognize that, amidst the majority of members who remain concerned about safety and workload with current and/or future onsite services in mind, there is also a minority who don't share the same concerns. VEA has shared data from this survey with VPS General Education Admin and SpEd Admin in this week's discussions in an effort to continue elevating member perspective. **We encourage you to share your individual realities and experiences with VPS School Board Directors and VPS Admin as you feel comfortable:**

VPS School Board Directors	VPS Admin
<a href="mailto:Wendy.smith@vansd.org">Wendy.smith@vansd.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Steven.webb@vansd.org">Steven.webb@vansd.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Kathy.decker@vansd.org">Kathy.decker@vansd.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Mike.stromme@vansd.org">Mike.stromme@vansd.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Tracie.barrows@vansd.org">Tracie.barrows@vansd.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Debra.hale@vansd.org">Debra.hale@vansd.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Kyle.sproul@vansd.org">Kyle.sproul@vansd.org</a>	<a href="mailto:James.gray@vansd.org">James.gray@vansd.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Camara.banfield@vansd.org">Camara.banfield@vansd.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Daniel.bettis@vansd.org">Daniel.bettis@vansd.org</a>
	<a href="mailto:Laura.bergeron@vansd.org">Laura.bergeron@vansd.org</a>
	<a href="mailto:Charlotte.pellens@vansd.org">Charlotte.pellens@vansd.org</a>

### VPS' Onsite Learning Expansion Plan

In spite of an alarmingly steady rise in local COVID cases in Clark County (Dec. 7: 447.70 cases per 100,000), VPS still has state and local health department support for "limited in-person learning in small groups, or cohorts, of students for the highest need students." VPS' updated plan to expand in-person learning to includes small pods of students in 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, slated to begin January 7<sup>th</sup> with the support of categorically funded staff.

Earlier this week, VEA shared the majority-member lack of confidence around the safety of current onsite services and with this proposed expansion. Since receiving further member outreach, VEA followed up with VPS Admin regarding member concerns:

- a lack of input and collaboration from instructional staff
- the inequitable learning experience between onsite/remote students and
- the inequitable workload for staff asked to facilitate both compared to those who continue under full remote.

We encourage categorically-funded staff to reach out to building admin in an effort to share your insights and creative solutions for problematic areas of your respective plans. A further report around VPS' proposed at-risk learning pods plan will be shared at Tuesday, 12/15's VPS School Board Workshop and all are encouraged to attend, beginning at 5 PM:

**To join the webinar:**

<https://vansd.zoom.us/j/85188351620?pwd=aU9aODI3VmREL3RnM3gwWG02Wkl4dz09>

**Passcode:** 093021

Though public comment is not listed on the agenda, VEA still encourages members to communicate with the board via their VPS email.

### WEA Membership-Wide Survey

Thank you in advance for [taking this survey](#), just issued by WEA via home email. Similar to the input you recently provided VEA here locally, your input will help inform and direct association advocacy and communication, at the state level as WEA leadership continues working on our behalf with the Department of Health, OSPI, and the Governor's Office.

### VPS Superintendent Survey: Respond by December 18<sup>th</sup>!

Thanks to those VEA members who were able to join and provide certificated staff perspective on the Monday, 12/17 Zoom call with McPherson & Jacobson, the search firm hired to help the VPS School Board incorporate community input into the process of finding and selecting candidates to interview! We've reached out to the School Board requesting an additional session with a later start time in an effort to engage more members as well. All certificated staff (and Vancouver community members at large) are also encouraged to respond to [this brief survey](#). If you haven't already responded, please do so before [the survey](#) closes on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please also share [this VPS Superintendent Search Page link](#) far and wide to help us provide as much community input as possible as the search begins for our next superintendent! From [this page](#), the survey is **available in both English and Spanish**.