



Vancouver Education Association

# Unity Strength Results

December 14, 2020

## Winter Update

### CALL TO ACTION: Email Outreach to VPS Admin and School Board Directors

VEA encourages all members to share their experience with remote and/or onsite instruction as well as your perspective on VPS' proposed expansion for onsite learning (pods of at-risk students tentatively beginning January 7<sup>th</sup>, pods of 1<sup>st</sup> graders tentatively beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, and/or pods of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders tentatively beginning February 22<sup>nd</sup>). Help ensure your voice is heard prior to Tuesday, 12/15's School Board Workshop, when pods of at-risk students will be discussed further!

From your home email address, you can address your message to any or all of the following:

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> (Elementary)
<a href="mailto:Kyle.sproul@vansd.org">Kyle.sproul@vansd.org</a>	<a href="mailto:James.gray@vansd.org">James.gray@vansd.org</a> (Secondary)
<a href="mailto:Camara.banfield@vansd.org">Camara.banfield@vansd.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Daniel.bettis@vansd.org">Daniel.bettis@vansd.org</a> (SPED)
	<a href="mailto:Laura.bergeron@vansd.org">Laura.bergeron@vansd.org</a> (SPED)
	<a href="mailto:Charlotte.pellens@vansd.org">Charlotte.pellens@vansd.org</a> (Categorical)
VEA Leadership	
<a href="mailto:kvannostran@washingtonea.org">kvannostran@washingtonea.org</a> (President)	
<a href="mailto:rwilson@washingtonea.org">rwilson@washingtonea.org</a> (Exec. Director)	

Not sure where to begin? Consider using the following template to structure your message:

Dear (insert names here),

My name is (insert name here) and I am a (insert VPS role here) for VPS. While I am encouraged by (note successes you, your students and your colleagues have experienced), I must express my growing concerns around (note areas of concern for students, families, and staff you've experienced as they relate to health, safety, learning equity and workload).

With these concerns in mind, I urge you to consider (note suggested solutions or alternatives to VPS' current or proposed plan). Thank you for your consideration. Please (reinforce your highest priority suggestion(s) here)!

Sincerely,  
(Insert name here)  
(Insert home email address here)

Last week, we reported that VEA leadership has shared member survey data speaking to the majority-member lack of confidence around the safety of current onsite services and with this proposed expansion. After receiving further member outreach, VEA also followed up with VPS Admin regarding member concerns with a lack of input from instructional staff as well as in the inequitable learning and teaching experience created by the proposed plans. We will continue to elevate member concerns and appreciate members for sharing their individual stories as well!

And, don't forget to tune in to Tuesday, 12/15's VPS School Board Workshop, beginning at 5 PM:

To join the webinar:

<https://vansd.zoom.us/j/85188351620?pwd=aU9aODI3VmRlL3RnM3gwWG02Wkl4dz09>

Passcode: 093021

### SpEd Update

VEA is grateful to Special Education leaders and members alike for your outreach and advocacy! Based on inquiries you've brought to our attention, you should know:

**VPS Special Education Teacher Listening Sessions:** VEA strongly encourages learning support and self-contained classroom teachers to participate in this week's Special Education Teacher Input Sessions through VPS! Access details can be found below.

#### Learning Support:

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://vansd.zoom.us/j/87470475681?pwd=N2JETUswQnJMND>

[FySTYvNHbNdThzUT09](https://vansd.zoom.us/j/87470475681?pwd=N2JETUswQnJMND)

Meeting ID: 874 7047 5681

Passcode: 725095

#### Self-Contained:

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://vansd.zoom.us/j/84150797510?pwd=N2syZjZueWrcvV>

[4VzRQaEQreUlsQT09](https://vansd.zoom.us/j/84150797510?pwd=N2syZjZueWrcvV)

Meeting ID: 841 5079 7510

Passcode: 115612

Sessions for SpEd ESAs are tentatively scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:00 PM as well, with more details to follow!

**PPE Guidance Document:** Special education staff and administrators should have received [this PPE Guidance Document](#) from VPS SpEd Area Managers last week in an effort to ensure all are on the same page regarding PPE provision and expectations for high-risk transmission spaces (where student disabilities may prevent full compliance with mask-wearing and 6-foot distancing protocols). If your experience in-building does not align with what is spelled out in this document or if there are other concerns regarding health and safety protocols, please reach out to your COVID Site Coordinator for support. If no response or follow through results, please notify VEA ASAP so we can advocate on your behalf or so we can accompany you in filing a formal safety complaint through Labor and Industries.

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

All certificated staff (other VPS staff and Vancouver community members at large) are 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>. VEA has also reached out to the School Board requesting a second live Zoom session for certificated staff to provide direct input and received confirmation from VSP School Board members this second session is in the works.

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**.

### 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.