

Winter Update

Thank You for Responding!

Thank you to the nearly 900 members who responded to the VEA Reopening Survey #3 issued last week! VEA leadership is sorting through Special Education, Kinder, and general education responses for priorities and trends to inform ongoing collaboration with VPS leadership and broader communication. We will report back similar details with all of you via email soon!

VPS School Board Meeting: Tuesday, 12/8 @ 5 PM

Join VEA leaders and other members of the community for tomorrow/Tuesday's VPS School Board Meeting.

We strongly encourage Special Education, Kinder, and Pre-K teachers to share public comment around your experience with onsite learning – good, bad, and otherwise!

We also encourage members to advocate for the return of all classified staff from furlough/reduced hours status in an effort to bring all hands back on deck to help serve students remotely and onsite!

To sign up for public comment, email VPSBoard.Directors@vansd.org by 12 PM tomorrow/Tuesday, 12/8 and announce your name, address, and topic.

To join the webinar at or before 5 PM, use the following link and passcode:

<https://vansd.zoom.us/j/82388527474?pwd=Mmw2NXlOSEFJTU1Cb09EWmRGTKdCQT09>
Passcode: 740000

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:

SpEd Paraeducator Vacancies and Para Sub Rate Payment:

VEA received VPS' response to the public records request we issued to confirm their past practice in payment to SpEd classroom teachers for paraeducator vacancies and the request confirmed 11 teachers have received it since the language was put in place, all of whom were/are learning support teachers.

In spite of this, VPS does acknowledge the workload impact ongoing para vacancies have on any classroom program. Last week, they presented a proposal for minimal compensation for a short window of time to be considered for self-contained teachers. In collaboration with Special Education VEA leaders, VEA has drafted a counterproposal for VPS' SpEd Admin's consideration and will report back to membership when we receive their response.

VEA still suggests learning support and self-contained teachers alike continue tracking para vacancies, as we will continue to advocate around retro-pay. Thank you for your patience – we will continue to provide updates as this work proceeds forward.

Support the Foundation for VPS Campaign

Thanks to those members who have already pledged their 2021 contribution to the Foundation for VPS! If you haven't, please consider contributing to help FVPS continue to provide students with basic needs resources, enrichment, and learning environments where they can be successful and thrive!

Your options include:

1. Payroll deduction (begins Jan 2021)

Give to FVPS through payroll deduction [by filling out this form](#) and returning it by email to staff.campaign@vansd.org. Donations by payroll deduction to the Foundation for VPS can also be done on [their website](#).

2. Credit card or check via [the FVPS website](#).

Social Media Mindfulness

Whether you are working onsite, remotely, or through a combination of both, VEA knows how hard you're all working to support students, families, and one another! Thank you for helping ensure the public perceives nothing less.



VEA strongly discourages members from engaging on social media during contract hours. This allows you to maintain focus on your primary work responsibilities while also preventing the public from drawing the wrong conclusion from your online presence during the workday.

Thank you for helping us maintain a positive image as public school educators!