



Vancouver Education Association

# Unity Strength Results

February 4, 2021

## Winter Update

### VEA Survey Results

We are grateful to the nearly 900 VEA members who responded to last week's Reopening #4 Survey! Your input has already informed VEA's communication and advocacy this week with [VPS Admin and School Board Directors surrounding the ever-changing plans to expand hybrid learning to the secondary level](#). Below is a broad breakdown of the feedback we collected from you:

**Q1** – Under current circumstances, only 28% of member respondents would prefer to support student learning through hybrid or all-in-person learning.

**Q2** – 61% strongly/disagree with a statement of confidence that the district is adhering (or will adhere) to all relevant safety guidelines and is (or will be) transparent in the reporting of safety issues to those staff who are impacted. Of those currently working onsite, still 49% - nearly half – strongly/disagree with that statement of confidence.

**Q3** – 52% of elementary respondents report not being able to provide input on their building's hybrid schedule; 75% of middle school respondents and 66% of high school respondents also report not being able to provide input.

**Q4** – If the District moves forward with plans to expand hybrid learning before widespread vaccinations, 94 middle school members report plans to request an alternate assignment, take leave, or resign altogether; 103 high school members report similar plans.

**Q5** – The greatest percentage of respondents, 60%, support action in the form of communicating concerns to VPS School Board Directors and/or VPS Admin. Still, 51% of respondents support action in the form of refusing to return on-site for expanded in-person learning prior to widespread vaccinations and/or significant decline in COVID case numbers: 40% of elementary respondents, 57% of middle school respondents, and 65% of high school respondents.

**Q6** – Three of the District provisions members report the lowest confidence in include:  
-adequate contact tracing (75% are somewhat/not confident),  
-enforcement of classroom count of students and staff to separate all 6-feet apart (70% are somewhat/not confident),  
-time embedded in the schedule for classroom staff to sanitize common contact surfaces between groups of students (62% are somewhat/not confident).

**Q7** – Among those currently supporting students onsite, three areas with the greatest degree of urgent/some issues requiring VEA advocacy/intervention include:  
-workload supporting BOTH remote and in-person learners (53%)  
-livestreaming to remote learners while supporting in-person students (41%, noting not all respondents are even livestreaming)  
-students eating in the classroom (37%).

### Contact WA Legislators

#### RE: Educator Vaccine Priority!

To continue or return to school buildings supporting our students, we need to be safe as possible! The COVID vaccination is a key layer of safety which, along with the L&I requirements and the Department of Health guidelines, can help keep our students, staff, and communities safer.

Earlier this week, WEA notified us that Rep. MacEwen has introduced a bill, [HB 1420](#), that would give educators immediate access to vaccination. Join us in [emailing committee chair Rep. Eileen Cody and the members of the Health Care and Education committees](#) calling on them to schedule a hearing for HB 1420.

[Take action here](#) and don't forget to share with a few friends!

### VEA Middle School Listening Session

Based on member outreach and survey responses, VEA recognizes there are more questions/concerns surrounding the transition to secondary hybrid than there are answers. VEA invites 6-8 educators to join us for a:

**VEA Middle School Listening Session  
Monday, 2/8 from 4-5 PM.**

Please register in advance for this meeting, using the following link:

<https://washingtonea.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrd-2rrzksHNwztQqv7LjyKza1bnc4SKjY>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### VPS School Board Meeting: Tuesday, 2/9 @ 5 PM

Save the date for the next VPS School Board meeting when we anticipate a report to include updates related to the modified plans for transitioning to secondary hybrid. **We strongly encourage members to sign up for sharing public comment to include suggestions, questions, and/or concerns from the perspective of an educator and/or parent.**

When: Feb 9, 2021 05:00 PM  
Topic: VPS Board Meeting  
[Webinar link TBA](#)

\*Requests to make Zoom public comments can be submitted to [VPSBoard.Directors@vansd.org](mailto:VPSBoard.Directors@vansd.org) by noon on February 9, 2021. Citizens wishing to address the Board must submit their full name and address for the record. Those signed up will have three minutes to address the Board. Public comments for the Study Session must pertain to the agenda items.

[Board Meeting Agenda TBA:](#)  
[Anticipated: 6-12 Secondary Re-opening Planning](#)

### VPS & CCPH COVID Case Updates

**\*No newly reported positive cases from VPS Schools since Tuesday's VEA Update.**

**Since January 1, 2021, CCPH has reported:**

**NEW! Feb 2: 310.54 cases per 100,000**

Jan 26: **401.23** cases per 100,000

Jan 19: **473.69** cases per 100,000

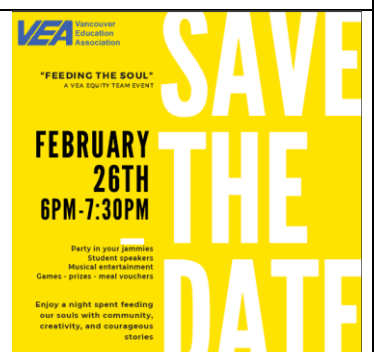
Jan 11: **397.95** cases per 100,000

Jan 4: **324.87** cases per 100,000

### 2021 VEA Equity Event

Join VEA's Equity Team in "Feeding the Soul" through this year's virtual event. Registration link coming soon!

[Click here for more details.](#)



Dr. Rick Wilson, Executive Director: [rwilson@washingtonea.org](mailto:rwilson@washingtonea.org), 360-771-4146

Kari Van Nostran, President: [kvannostran@washingtonea.org](mailto:kvannostran@washingtonea.org), 360-624-7245

Cindy Brown, Administrative Assistant: [cbrown@washingtonea.org](mailto:cbrown@washingtonea.org), 360-607-7697