



Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

June 2022

Teacher at the beginning of the school year



Teacher at the end of the school year



The time is NOW for Collective Action...

VEA extends a big thank you to all our members for your contributions in making this a memorable school year! YOU showed the community the perseverance, determination, and grit that educators are made of. Through the unusual twists to the unexpected turns, students were served and nurtured under some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable.

The recent tragedy in Uvalde, Texas amplified the anxiety and stress realized by our members and the students they serve. Last week we also saw two incidents of students who brought guns on campus in Clark County high schools, including Skyview HS, amidst other threats of violence posted on social media by students. The Association continues to advocate for uniform school safety and discipline protocols on your behalf through labor management and the interim bargain. The Association also filed a request for PERC mediation this week after its proposals regarding student discipline and protection of teacher-directed time have been met with little to no movement by the District since bargaining began in March. Please watch for subsequent communications around the bargain via home email.

You are exhausted. We get that. Still, the broader conversation around mental health supports, transparent, concrete, and uniform school safety and student discipline protocols can be amplified by our collective action.

Let your voice be heard!

- 1) Sign [this petition](#)
- 2) Share your thoughts with the school board and superintendent via email ((tracie.barrows@vansd.org, kathy.decker@vansd.org; wendy.smith@vansd.org; kyle.sproul@vansd.org; Sandra.zavala-ortega@vansd.org, and jeff.snell@vansd.org)
- 3) Speak in person or [virtually](#) at the next VPS School Board meeting on June 7th Fill out [this form](#) by noon on Tuesday to sign up to speak.
- 4) **Wear Orange** to end gun violence and honor survivors of gun violence on Tuesday, June 7 in solidarity and for school board meeting unified presence.

Hang in there... summer is almost here!

VEA Executive Director
Page A. Todd

VEA President
Kari Van Nostran

VEA Admin Assistant
Cindy Brown



March for Our Lives – Vancouver

On June 11, join in one of several marches across Washington in a country-wide call for a nation free of gun violence. June 11, 2022 2:00-4:00 pm at the Vancouver Waterfront (695 Waterfront Way. [Sign up to attend.](#)



Intermediate Trustee Opening

The VEA Executive Board approved an immediate election to fill the remainder of the Intermediate Trustee term (2022-24). Nominations are now open – you can nominate a colleague or yourself via email or live at the June 6th Rep Council meeting (when nominations will formally close). Candidates are asked to submit [this form](#) to VEA (cbrown@washingtonea.org) by 4:00 pm on June 6th or immediately following nomination.



Don't Forget to Sign Your Contract

Your employment contract does not become effective until you deliver it to the Office of Human Resources within fifteen (15) days of the date of issuance: To continue serving in the 22-23 school year, you must have (1) a valid Washington State professional certificate required for the position identified; and (2) the contract bearing the employee's signature. Per contract, in the event you fail to sign and return your contract within the time specified, you shall be deemed to have waived any right to employment with the district.

What does Provisional/Continuing Mean?

Educators with Washington experience who are new to VPS will be on a provisional contract for one year. New educators without prior experience will be on a provisional contract for up to three years. Once completing provisional status, members are placed in continuing contract status. Any reduction in FTE for 22/23 to a provisional/continuing contract should have been communicated prior to May 15.

One Year /Leave Replacement Contracts.

One year leave replacement contracts (OYC) are place holders for members on a full year leave of absence. The district is obligated to place them upon their return. There should be a 1:1 match up of members on leave and OYC contracts. OYC holders have no guarantee for placement in the subsequent school year and should apply/express interest in openings through HR. After excess employees have been placed, HR typically begins to look to OYC employees for potential employment. Contact VEA if you have any questions around your contract.

Feeling Blah? EAP

This has been an unusual year. You have kept numerous balls floating in the air as we navigated the moving COVID targets including lack of subs and support personnel, and trying to hold onto a semblance of “normal” for all those you care for. Understandably, your herculean efforts may have an unintended consequence on your mental health. Please take time to take care of YOU!

Don't forget that members are provided free confidential counseling sessions for help with mental and emotional stress, personal/family stresses, job difficulties and burn-out. Contact Deer Oaks at 1-888-993-7650 or eap@deeroakseap.com. Online tools are available at www.deeroakseap.com. (password is vansd). Resources can also be accessed via the iConnect You app (code is 221967).

WEA National Board Jump Start



WEA Jump Start is a multi-day comprehensive seminar designed to provide National Board candidates with important information about the certification process, time to examine component and Assessment Center requirements, the opportunity to plan how to meet requirements, and time to collaborate, gather resources and information needed to pursue certification. All this happens in a supportive, constructive, and collegial environment.

WEA is currently planning to offer two, on-line National Board Jump Start events this summer. Registration is \$75 and open for WEA members only. Please see the [WEA website](#) for possible discounts for and/or scholarship assistance with the registration fee. Foundations I must be completed as a pre-requisite before taking the component options within an approved cohort.

- June 27- July 1 [Registration](#)
- August 1 – August 5 [Registration](#)

VEA will offer cohort support for the 22-23 NBCT candidates. VEA's facilitators are hosting an information session on NBCT and the VEA NBCT cohort June 14th 5 pm Zoom. Register via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86175630429>. Watch for cohort registration information on the VEA website soon or contact [Rocky Lahti](#) or [Erin Hanson](#) for more info!

Look Closely... If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is!

#Membership Matters



As we head into the summer break, we want to remind our members that not everyone shares our union spirit. Anti-union factions such as the Freedom Foundation and Choice for Teachers have tried mailers, email, leafletting, and other means to coerce members into dropping their membership. Don't be duped! They lobby to weaken our collective bargaining rights and are funded by out-of-state interests. As we bargain around working conditions for you in this interim bargain, and for higher wages in the 2023 bargain, we need our union to stay united! Our collective voice achieves powerful results for our students and ourselves. With a strong, united membership, we have the power to improve and protect our rights and economic security, and to fight for the best interests of our students



Last Call for the Music and Arts Grant

California Casualty offers great coverage for you and promotes opportunities for educators. The Music and Art grants are awarded to K-12 Classrooms in the amount of \$250. VEA members have received these awards at Jefferson MS, King Elementary, and Hudson's Bay HS. These grants will be awarded in the Fall in September or October. **The entry deadline is June 30, 2022.** www.calcasmusicartsgrant.com



Win a Staycation!



Let California Casualty escape the every day with \$10,000 to spend your way! Get that hot tub you've always wanted, create your dream kitchen, turn your backyard into an oasis, add a media room the whole family can enjoy-the possibilities are endless, but only if you [enter to win](#)

Special Calendar Days



Aug 15-Aug 29 – Window of time available for mandatory trainings.

Mandatory PD/Professional Development Training Days Learning (TRI PL) Days:

Employees being compensated for attending a mandatory training must complete supplemental contracts. All certificated employees are paid based on the negotiated hourly rate. Certificated employees, whether on fractional or full-time contracts, are required to attend the entire in-service session. Notice of mandatory attendance must be published prior to the last day of the previous school year to allow for appropriate planning. Leave compensation does not apply.

TRI/State Mandated Professional Learning Days (CPA Chapter 12)

- Professional Learning Day, all levels – Wednesday, August 24
- Principal or Program Administrator Directed Professional Learning Pre-duty Day, all levels – Thursday, August 25*
- Both August days are paid through Part A of the Time, Responsibility, and Incentive (TRI) supplemental contract in the October payroll.
- Leave compensation does not apply
- Absence must be recorded in Absence Management
- Fractional contract certificated employees are required to attend and are paid for eight (8) hour days.

*Principal or Program Administrator Directed Professional Learning Pre-duty Day:

There is a total of eight (8) hours (Article 12.4A) for this professional learning. If a site votes to split the eight hours into two (2) four (4) hour days (August 25 and August 26), a **staff-wide SBLT** vote will be required (Article 15.4).

Preparation for Beginning of School, Grading, and Closing of School Year:

As part of the standard expectations of a professional educator and enrichment TRI responsibilities, certificated staff will complete tasks associated with preparing for the beginning of the school year, grading, and closing the school year.



WEAPAC Endorsements

VEA is assigned the 49th Legislative District for WEAPAC endorsements. Our WEAPAC Board members facilitated the endorsement process for Sharon Wylie and Monica Stonier

who will both proudly add our endorsement to their campaign information!

Does my retirement date matter?

The date educators choose to retire can have a significant impact on their health benefits and on their retirement wage calculation. Selecting a June retirement date cancels SEBB benefits for summer and retiring as of Aug. 31 means missing the first COLA on the pension. Make sure you make informed decisions. [Read more](#) from the state Department of Retirement Systems.



First Annual VEA Picnic

Calling ALL VEA MEMBERS and your family!! Join us on **June 10th** for the First Annual VEA Picnic from 4:00-6:30 pm at

Vancouver Lake Regional Park in the Eagle North Pavilion. Food. Games. Prizes. VEA Tshirts. [RSVP for planning purposes](#) ASAP!



Happy PRIDE Month!

As the nation celebrates LGBTQ+ voices and communities, educators are also speaking out. Teachers play a crucial role in supporting and advocating for LGBTQ+ students, ensuring they can learn and explore in a safe classroom space. Likewise, NEA and local unions work to protect LGBTQ+ educators, building solidarity along the way, and creating safe spaces for students.

<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/pride-month-protecting-lgbtq-students-and-educator-rights>

NEA [LGBTQ+ Resources](#). This resource page is designed to provide educators with LGBTQ+ information, tools, and resources they need to support transgender and non-binary students, to be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ history in their classrooms, and to stop LGBTQ+ bias and intolerance in our public schools.

Celebrating Our Retirees

As we say goodbye to our students, we have a number of members to say goodbye to as they transition into retirement! THANK You for your contributions to the student experience in Vancouver. THANK You for your membership and Congratulations on your retirement!

Kari Andrell (Lake Shore), Joanne Andrew (Fort), Peter Dallman (Roosevelt), Betsy Haywood (Hazel Dell), Cheryl Knight (Discovery), Michelle Lawrence (VSAA), Rebecca Lewis (Truman), David Long (River), Karen Parrow (Jefferson), Randle Howard (Bay), Eileen Renfro (Marshall), Debra Richardson (Fruit Valley), Claire Smith (Skyview), Julie Spencer (King), Lori Talley (Marshall), Nancy Wistrand (Skyview) and Joseph Young (Heights Campus)

VEA Retirees and a guest are invited to join us for a celebration on June 14th. Please [RSVP](#) by June 6th for planning purposes. #UnionStrong #RetiredLife