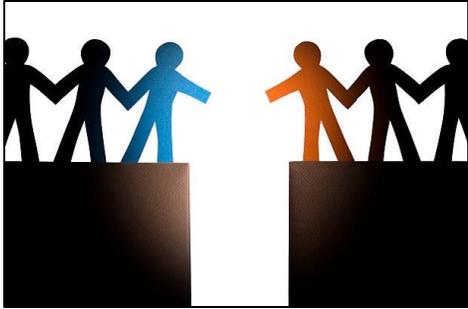




VEA and VPS Continue Bargaining:

The Association and the District had a third mediated bargaining session with the assistance of a Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) mediator on August 16.



The gap between VEA and VPS positions on a proposal related to Safety and Discipline is closing! As both teams seek mutual agreement around consistent terminology, VPS has responded, in particular, to VEA’s advocacy for member input and training on student management and discipline at the elementary, middle and high school levels that help outline building-wide practices for student intervention, documentation and communication. *We heard loud and clear from members that more consistent and more streamlined processes, with clearer role delineations, are needed - educator perspective should help inform what that looks like and all educators should have a clear understanding of what processes are established!*

VPS has not been as receptive to VEA’s advocacy for protecting educator-directed time within the contract day. Planning for differentiated instruction and services to address unique student needs, scoring/grading/tracking data around student progress, and partnering with families to ensure student success are only a few examples of the many priority-demands on your time outside of direct-student-contact throughout the week. *Member outreach and bargaining survey responses reiterated the need for more educator-directed time to truly serve students and families and to feel confident you’re able to fulfill your professional responsibilities at the highest level possible. You also deserve a chance to better balance home and family life during what should otherwise be considered your off-hours!*



What happens next?

VEA and VPS, with PERC mediator support, will resume bargaining discussions early next week so we can return to the virtual bargaining table to focus on closing the gap between VEA and VPS positions on educator-directed time.



Future bargaining dates include: TBD

The VEA interim bargaining team consists of Kari Van Nostran, Jamie Anderson (Bargaining Chair), Amy Spofford, Andrew Wicklas, Keith Lloyd, Sunny Selders, and Page Todd. The District team now consists of Jeff Fish, Bill Oman, Mychael Irwin, Daniel Bettis, and Janell Ephraim.

Make sure VEA has your non-school contact information for subsequent updates!

Send any changes to your home email to cbrown@washingtonea.org