

# VEA Unity Strength Results BARGAINING ♦ NEWS

Vancouver Education Association Issue 8: MOU & 2022 Interim Bargain September 2, 2022

## COVID MOU Established for the 22-23 School Year:

VEA had a collaborative experience working with VPS on a 2022-2023 COVID MOU and your VEA Executive Board has approved the agreement (see 2<sup>nd</sup> attachment of today's Bargaining Update email), effective August 30, 2022 through August 31, 2023. Some highlights include:



- Up to 7 days of paid administrative leave if diagnosed with COVID-19 due to workplace exposure.
  - a. While any employee diagnosed with COVID-19 may want to file a Worker's Compensation Claim, *if the District determines that diagnosis is not due to workplace exposure, employees are strongly encouraged to file a State Workers' Compensation claim.*
  - b. The first step in the claims process is to contact [Becky.Johnson@vansd.org](mailto:Becky.Johnson@vansd.org) from VPS HR/Benefits Office to advise that you are filing a Workers' Compensation claim for COVID exposure/diagnosis and to request the necessary forms.
- Contingency language for future health crisis state of emergency situations (Monkeypox or others).
- No requirements for educators to provide synchronous instruction to isolated students due to illness/COVID. Assignments for absent students per VPS Policy/Procedure 3122/3122P (i.e. not on a learning management system unless electing to do so).
- Paid time protections to fit-test those who are required to wear N-95 masks during high-transmission work situations.
- Extension of MOU protections through summer months to August 31, 2023.

Two additional documents for your reference also include the updated [WADOH Decision Tree Flowchart](#) and the [District COVID Plan 2022-2023](#).

## VEA and VPS Continue the 2022 Interim Bargain:

Last week, the Association and the District completed our fourth mediated bargaining session with the assistance of a Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) mediator.



VEA and VPS team members collaborated around final language adjustments to the proposal related to Safety and Discipline – we are close to a tentative agreement for this item!

However, in spite of VEA's efforts to provide creative solutions for finding mutual agreement around protections for educator-directed time within the contract day, VPS remains unreceptive and has made little to no movement on that remaining topic.



## What happens next?

Your VEA bargaining team convened earlier this week to discuss potential next steps and to prepare a response to VPS and the PERC mediator. VEA is awaiting response from VPS and the PERC mediator as to when we will return to the table for further negotiation.

**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 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](mailto:cbrown@washingtonea.org)