



The VEA Bargaining team met with the District team Wednesday to exchange counterproposals. VEA shared counterproposals regarding PIR Placement and Staffing Sequence, as well as language around Special Education/ESA exemptions. The VPS team shared counterproposals surrounding Salary, PLCs, and updates to Chapter 14 (Layoff, Leave, and Recall Procedures). VEA is still awaiting a counterproposal regarding Educator Evaluation from VPS.

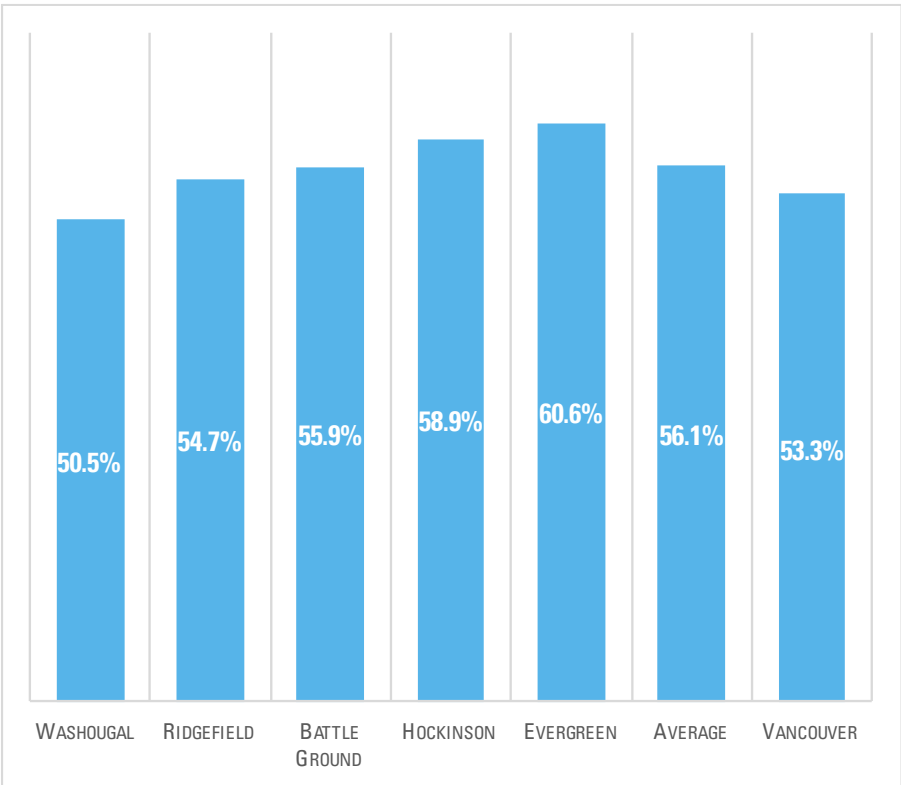
More room to Move.. We think so!

The VPS team shared a salary counterproposal which VEA views as insufficient to gain more of a competitive edge with other local districts. The District argued for a minimal percentage increase above the 3.7% IPD citing the sunseting of federal ESSER dollars for all districts, regionalization funding differences between like-sized districts, and economic strain on some of those same like-sized districts. Regardless, your VEA team still asserts that VPS has more room to move.

The salary rebase conducted by the Washington legislature during the 2023 session determined that our VPS certificated staff is not made up of enough senior/advanced degree members to qualify VPS for any additional funding factor for such salary impacts. This same state rebase process also determined that housing/living costs in the area surrounding VPS schools would not qualify VPS for more than the 6% additional regionalization funding factor VPS has received previously. Without realizing additional state funding sources for salaries, your VEA Bargaining team’s appeal for a cost-of-living increase above the 3.7% IPD is focused on how VPS prioritizes spending within their overall budget to be more in line with that of like districts.

When we compare VPS spending within the category of “Teaching” (under which the vast majority of VEA member salary and benefits are captured) to that of other local districts with the same 6% regionalization factor and we eliminate reference to ESSER spending, we still find that VPS spends almost 3% less than the average of those like districts. In an effort to compete with other local districts and ensure the hard work of VEA members like you is honored with commensurate pay, your VEA Bargaining Team will continue fighting on your behalf!

Percent of total non-ESSER budget allocated to Teaching (Activity 27, OSPI), 2021-22



What’s Next?

Teams will meet again next week, June 9th, to exchange counterproposals.



2023 Bargaining Teams

The 2023 VEA interim bargaining team consists of Kari Van Nostran, Jamie Anderson (Bargaining Chair), Amy Spofford, Andrew Wicklas, Keith Lloyd, Sunny Selders, Phil Harding (Interim Executive Director), and Graham Picklesimer (Executive Director). The 2023 District interim bargaining team consists of Jeff Fish, Kris Janati, Brett Blechschmidt, Kristie Lindholm, and Moorea Wilson.

Future bargaining dates include: **June 9 & June 14**

We invite and encourage our members to wear your **VEA #BetterTogether** t-shirts on future bargaining dates to show solidarity with your VEA Bargaining team. ***Take a #selfie or an #ussie with colleagues and send it to cbrown@washingtonea.org to emphasize your support.***

Shout out to Lori Koeb and our Nurses for their solidarity!

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



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

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