

## May Update

### Letter to School Board - Clarification of Intent

In the May Action Line newsletter, VEA shared communications which were sent to the School Board regarding concerns over their claims of “historically low” class sizes and that VPS was simply returning to “pre-COVID” class sizes. We compared class size data from February 2020 (pre-COVID) to February 2024 (for a same point comparison) to highlight what we felt was misinformation being shared by district administration. In the same section, we also stated that “...the Dual Language program has put an inordinate burden on the English only classes realizing disproportionately high student loads at some sites as compared to their grade-level dual-counterparts.” In the February 2024 data, it was true that—*at some sites*—the non-dual classes are realizing higher class sizes. Specifically, at [Anderson and Franklin](#), the average across all classes was almost 3 students more per class in non-dual classes, in some cases, the actual difference being up to 10 more students in a non-dual classroom. At sites where the Dual language classrooms realize higher numbers there are instances of more non-dual combination classes, which present their own challenges, especially at the lower grades. For example, Harney has two K-1, two 3-4 and two 4-5 combination classes. The association pointed this out as a potential unintended consequence to decisions that the Board may not have fully anticipated when it made them.

Some members pointed out that the use of the phrase “inordinate burden” made it sound as though VEA placed a higher value on English-only classes compared to dual language classes. Our intent was not to cause harm and we acknowledge and apologize for any upset it may have caused our members. We value all of our members and the unique roles in which they serve students and will make sure our language reflects that in the future.

### All Call – May 14 School Board

Members impacted by the RIF either by non-renewal or reassignment are encouraged to attend the School Board meeting on Tuesday, May 14. Let’s put a face to these decisions. Sign up prior to the meeting. If you wish to make comments via Zoom, please [fill out this form](#) by noon on the day of the school board meeting.

### Vote of No Confidence

Building reps voted to recommend that Votes of No Confidence be held by our membership for: Dr. Snell, VPS School Board of Directors, and Special Services leadership.

VEA leadership recognizes that member emotions are high due to everything happening to our members right now - many are feeling angry, frustrated, disrespected, and anxious.

VEA office staff will be discussing the logistics for this action this week. This is an important decision which should not be taken lightly and deserves full thought and consideration be given by our members. Please look for more communication from VEA soon.



**VEA**  
Vancouver Education Association

# BINGO Night

Member Appreciation Social  
VEA hosted beverage and food  
Fun - Prizes

MAY 10 GHOSTRUNNER BREWING 4:30 TO 6:30 PM  
4216 NE MINNEHAHA ST, #108

RSVP BY MAY 7  
[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/kl89y3f](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/kl89y3f)



**VEA Member Appreciation Social – May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
See you there!