

VEA Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

May 2026

Members Flex their Collective Muscle

Anti-Pink Slip Campaign. Members at 20 sites, all wearing pink, held demonstrations before and after school. The April School Board meeting overflowed into the Roosevelt commons. Over 2095 emails were sent to our school board with messages to Bring our Teachers Back! It is VEA's understanding that the recalls are beginning to roll out across the district. Our Pink Slips will remain until all members are recalled to the amount authorized by the School Board. We strongly encourage continued show of support at the May 12 School Board meeting.



Bargaining Survey on Salary. In just shy of three work days, 677 members provided the VEA bargaining team with data on where you stand on the district's Salary proposal of IPD plus 0. This member data reinforced their resolve at the table.

Vote of No Confidence. As a member-led organization, your VEA Rep Council brought forward the consideration, and passed a motion at their April 20 meeting to initiate a Vote of No Confidence Process for CFO Brett Blechschmidt. They also called for a petition to circulate asking for his resignation. The first step in the VONC process is to gather member opinion through a relevant climate and culture survey. This survey is intended to capture the climate and culture created by CFO Brett Blechschmidt. Please use the box at the end of the survey to elaborate further.

If there is a clear and strong majority that those polled in the Climate and Culture survey lack confidence in the VONC target, the VEA Executive Board will then launch a ballot for a VONC vote within seven (7) days.



Please complete this CFO Climate and Culture Survey no later than May 7th at 5:00 pm. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/69SBB9J>

Disability Survey. Disability is recognized as a protected class and is explicitly included in the District's Equity framework. The VEA is gathering data to identify strengths, areas for improvement, and patterns related to workplace access and inclusion for educators. This survey is anonymous and individual responses will not be shared without permission. Results will be analyzed in aggregate to inform advocacy and support equitable working conditions for our members. Please complete this Disability survey no later than May 15, 2026: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N5WVFBQ>

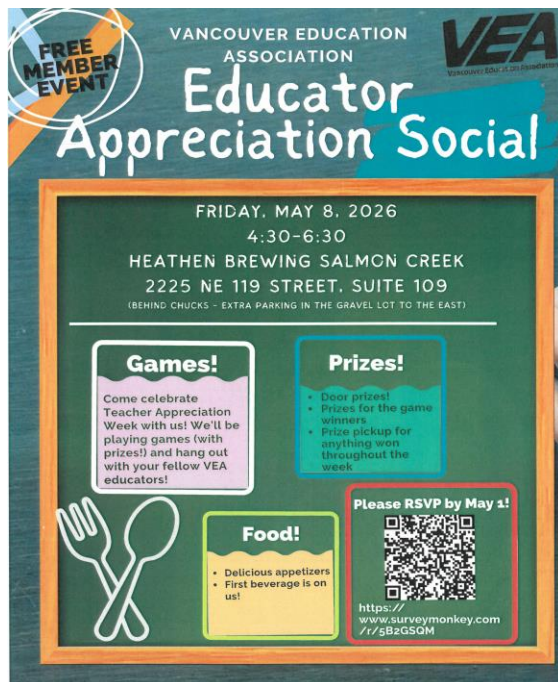


We see the results when members flex their collective muscle together. #BetterTogether

WE APPRECIATE YOU

As the end of the year comes into view, we pause to celebrate each other. Though the challenges we face are immense, together our combined compassion, expertise and commitment to ensuring future generations of learners allows us to succeed in our endeavors. This has been a tough year. There's a lot of uncertainty in the air. What you can be certain of is the VEA is there for you. We continue to be there for each other! In honor of National Teacher Appreciation week, the VEA salutes our educators and your perseverance to ensure that every child in our public education system receives the skills necessary for success in life. This profession is one of the most noble, yet most challenging. It takes a special individual to continually learn and adapt to shape the world by shaping lives. YOU are celebrated and appreciated!! Contact VEA if you see your VPS Employee Number hidden in publications and notices through May 8th.

VEA Member Social –



FREE MEMBER EVENT

VANCOUVER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION **VEA**
VANCOUVER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Educator Appreciation Social


FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026
4:30-6:30
HEATHEN BREWING SALMON CREEK
2225 NE 119 STREET, SUITE 109
(BEHIND CHUCKS - EXTRA PARKING IN THE GRAVEL LOT TO THE EAST)

Games!
Come celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week with us! We'll be playing games (with prizes!) and hang out with your fellow VEA educators!

Prizes!
• Door prizes!
• Prizes for the game winners
• Prize pickup for anything won throughout the week.

Food!
• Delicious appetizers
• First beverage is on us!

Please RSVP by May 1!


<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5B2GSQM>

RSVP:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5B2GSQM>



Please complete [this survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5B2GSQM) (even if you're not coming to the social) to generate data for our "Faculty Feud Frenzy" game

Community Support for Teacher Appreciation Week

Shop Daiso and enjoy 10% off – show your school ID or VEA card May 4-10th.



Hey, teachers!

5.4-5.10

Shop at Daiso & enjoy...

10% OFF

entire purchase

Available to school employees only, with valid ID*

*Valid at all participating Daiso stores. School employees must present a valid ID to redeem. Cannot combine with other coupons or promotions. Offer not valid on previous purchases. Subject to change without notice. See store associates for details.

Columbia Sportswear Employee Store



Columbia Sportswear Company

TEACHERS

GET AN EXTRA 10% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE

*INCLUDES FACULTY & STAFF

Columbia Sorel Mountain Hardwear prAna

The Columbia employee store is stocked with NEW spring products from their family of brands – Columbia, Mountain Hardwear, Sorel, and prAna. Enjoy access May 1-31 with an extra 10% off for teacher appreciation month! The flier is on the [VEA website](http://www.vancouverea.org) (www.vancouverea.org)

Growing your Family PD



VEA is pleased to present a free workshop on May 14 at 4:30 pm (Roosevelt Media Center) for members and their significant other on how to prepare

and plan for pregnancy and maternity/paternity related leaves. This seminar will also provide information about other available resources you may want to consider when growing your family.



Register at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C56B2CD>

Involuntary Transfers and Moving \$\$\$



With the mad shuffle happening before our eyes, and perhaps more shuffling after school starts in the fall, know what compensation you receive pursuant to this contract language regarding involuntary moves.

Article 7.12 District Directed Relocation of Employees

7.12A. A relocation of an employee and/or their class to another building or site shall be accomplished with prior notice as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no event less than seventy-two (72) hours, and with assistance upon request in packing, transporting, and unpacking materials from the one site to the other to eliminate or reduce the necessity of overtime by the employee. The District shall provide release time from duties during the contract day or up to two (2) eight (8)-hour days, paid at the per diem rate, per affected employee. The allocation of the above time or pay is for the purposes of the take down, relocation, and reinstatement of their classroom and/or workspace. Adjustments may be made by mutual agreement of the principal and affected employee(s). *The district has agreed to compensate individuals who are recalled to new locations before the end of the school year according to 7.12A.*

7.12B. Relocation of an employee and/or their class to another classroom/space within the same building or site (e.g. change in grade level

and/or position of the employee, major, long-term repairs to existing classroom/workspace, etc.) permanently or temporarily, shall be accomplished with the greatest possible prior notice, with assistance upon request, in packing, transporting, and unpacking District materials from one classroom/space to the other. The District shall provide release time from duties during the contract day or up to one (1), eight (8) hour day, paid at the per diem rate, per affected employee. Adjustments may be made by mutual agreement of the principal and affected employee(s).

7.12C. In the event that a certificated staff member is transferred and required to relocate outside of the building after the beginning of the school year due to a reassignment or is reassigned and required to change an entire grade level or subject matter, the District will provide a minimum of two (2) days without students for preparation in the new assignment in addition to the rights and benefits described in 7.12A above.

7.12D. The District and Association recognize that exceptional circumstances may arise (e.g. significant furniture or physical materials, movement across multiple buildings, etc.) where additional support for relocation beyond the remedies described above is necessary. Should adjustments not be remedied at the building level, requests for further support shall be reviewed by the Executive Director of the Association and the Superintendent Designee and approved on a case-by-case basis.

2026 WEA Representative Assembly Recap

The WEA Representative Assembly (RA) adjourned just after 11:30 PM on Saturday night—marking the earliest conclusion in several years! VEA delegates spent the final days of their spring break representing YOU — our VEA members.

VEA was well represented by Brian Dunlap (Discovery), Max Wise (Gaiser), Karina Mattson (Minnehaha), Angel Sierra Figueroa (King), Bill Graves (Thomas Jefferson), August Waldron (Columbia River), Sam Wilkes (Ogden), and Katie Webb (Jason Lee). The VEA delegation

was joined by Jamie Anderson (WEA Board Director, VEA President), Cam Swarts (WEA Board Director, VEA Specialist Trustee), and Charlotte Lartey (WEA Board Director, NEA State Director, VEA 1st VP).



Statewide Elections

Delegates elected new statewide leadership:

- Janie White (current WEA Vice President) was elected to serve as WEA President,
 - Tani Lindquist (WEA Sammamish Council President) was elected to WEA Vice President, and
 - Audra Shaw (WEA Eastern Council President) re-elected to NEA State Director.
- All terms will begin in July.

There was a heartfelt, and very entertaining, baseball themed send off for current WEA President, Larry Delaney.

Special Dues Assessment

RA delegates approved a temporary, three-year special dues assessment of \$3/month for certificated members and \$1/month for classified/ESP members. To offset this increase, delegates also approved a pause for the \$1/month BIPOC Scholarship assessment. This adjustment makes the change cost-neutral for classified/ESP members and reduces the impact on certificated members.

The purpose of the special assessment is to strengthen our collective ability to:

- Safeguard educators' rights to organize, bargain, and have representation
 - Defend educators' ability to speak without fear of retaliation
 - Protect federal funding for public education
- The temporary BIPOC scholarship pause will not impact WEA's ability to continue honoring its commitments and partnerships with WWU and UW-Bothell.

Notable New Business Items

Each year, RA delegates debate and pass (or not) several New Business Items which will set the priorities for WEA over the next year. This year, some of the notable New Business Items (NBIs) included:

- Educator Safety Bill of Rights – Establishing clearer guidance and protections for educators working with students who have caused harm
- McCleary 2.0 – Exploring and implementing legal action to address the state's ongoing failure to fully fund public education
- Building Local Power/May Day Strong – Organizing toward a nationwide action in May 2028
- School Bond Reform – WEA will lobby the legislature to lower the bond approval threshold from a super majority (60%) to a simple majority (50% +1)
- Fully Funding IDEA – WEA will support a state resolution to push for full federal funding of special education - this NBI already has the support of 49th LD Representative, Monica Stonier
- Phone-Free Schools – Promoting statewide "bell-to-bell" policies limiting personal electronic devices
- LGBTQ+ Know Your Rights – Expanding support, training, and protections for LGBTQ+ educators
- Workplace Safety and Accountability – Advancing stronger protections, compensation, and reporting systems related to workplace violence

The RA continues to be a powerful space where educators from across Washington come together to shape the future of our profession and advocate for the schools our students deserve. Next year's RA is scheduled for April 15-17 and will be in Tacoma, Washington.

VEA Elections Committee*

VEA is looking for members to serve on the VEA Elections Committee. The role of these committee members (Standing rule 401.2) include administering elections in accordance with the election timelines established by the VEA Executive Board and approved by Rep Council. They receive and review merits of any complaints of election violations, and provide unofficial results for each election. Notify VEA if you are interested in serving! The committee is affirmed at the June Rep Council meeting each year.

Important Evaluation Dates in May

Student Growth Goals should be completed by May 1 to allow for reflective conversations and data analysis (8.4O).

All observations and related post-conferences shall be completed no later than May 10 in order to allow time for summative end of year conferences. (8.4P)

By June 5, evaluators must electronically submit a draft summative evaluation report to the educators they evaluate to provide educators time to review and seek revision to any scores that misalign with collective evidence and/or practice prior to the final submission step of the evaluation process (8.4R).

Retiring!

Celebrate with us June 4,

VEA members and a guest are invited to a Retirement Celebration hosted by Cassie Johnson from Corebridge Financial and WEA member benefits. Come when you can, stay as long as you like. Festivities start at 4:30 and wrap up by 6:30 at Say Ciao! 2501 SE Columbia Way #270 – Vancouver, WA (just west of Water Resources Education Center). This is a celebration of your membership and is not in any way a sales meeting. Please RSVP by May 28th



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CZHVMSZ>

Tis' the Political Season

Even though the legislative session has ended, the political season is just now beginning!

The endorsement process to select pro-education, pro-labor candidates for the 49th legislative district. Do you want to have a voice in the process? First you must be a WEAPAC contributor – and let the VEA office know you will show up on May 6th from 4:30-7:30 pm (dinner provided!).

Would you like to join the VEA PAC Chair, Brian Dunlap at the Washington State Labor Council's endorsement convention on May 15? This is where labor comes together and endorses for candidates and ballot measures. We have a lot of important races this year (Supreme Court, Initiatives, legislative races) and are really hoping VEA can send its full delegation to maximize our voting power.

Not into endorsements, but still have something on your mind? Perhaps School Funding (dropped from >50% of the state budget to 44%?) and how that has impacted you? Meet with Monica Stonier and have that conversation!! Pizza and a beverage is on us!

PIZZA & POLITICS

MAY 19
4:30-6:30 PM
HUNGRY SASQUATCH
2110 MAIN STREET - VANCOUVER

COME HEAR FROM AND TALK TO YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. HELP THEM UNDERSTAND OUR WORK AS WE UNDERSTAND THEIRS

RSVP: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y8CD2GM>

RSVP:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y8CD2GM>

Native American and Pacific Islander Month

The NCUEA Fall conference provided a unique insight into the cultural and labor history of Pacific Islanders. The following highlights were provided by Mariela Marrero, Anderson Elementary. Contact VEA for the full report including highlights from the Power of Reciprocal Learning..

Here's some insights on the [Labor history of the Hawaiian Islands](#):

As VEA looks to rebuild an Equity Team for 2026-27, please consider participating and pondering these thoughts:

- * Effective leadership in times of uncertainty requires a commitment to ethical decision-making, critical reflection, and the courage to act in alignment with core values
- * Centering the historical and contemporary realities of place is essential to equity-focused leadership. The history of Hawai'i illustrates the lasting effects of colonization, displacement, and cultural erasure, which continue to shape present-day social and political conditions.
- * The experiences of Indigenous peoples and marginalized communities across different regions, including Hawai'i and Puerto Rico, reveal interconnected histories of oppression and resistance, underscoring the global nature of these struggles.
- * Equity work demands intentional action beyond recognition or symbolic acknowledgment. Leaders must actively challenge structures that perpetuate systemic racism, gentrification, and cultural appropriation.
- * Meaningful leadership is grounded in sustained listening, relationship-building, and accountability to the communities most impacted by inequitable systems.
- * Embracing an "ocean of possibilities" requires leaders to engage uncertainty as a space for innovation, collective responsibility, and transformative change.

Electing Your VEA Representatives

Don't forget! Besides Safety Committee and SBLT leadership, it is also time to elect your contingent of VEA representatives for 2026-27. Each site/constituency group is allocated one rep for every 15 members. The term is two years, and there are no term limits.

All members are eligible to run for a rep position. This team of reps keep you, the member, informed of important information. Training opportunities for new reps will be scheduled in the fall.

Please consider the shuffling of staff at various sites and within constituency groups when making these decisions. Elections need to be communicated to the VEA office prior to the first Rep Council meeting in September.

Professional Development Funds Don't miss the deadline!

The 2025-26 Professional Development year is July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. **Funds increased to \$1250!**

Application Deadline for 2025-26: June 15, 2026 Submit applications by June 16 to allow for processing and notification by the last day of school. Remember to allow sufficient time for supervisor review.

End Date for Activities Qualifying for 2025-26 Funding: June 30, 2026 The last day of an activity must be on or before June 30, in order to be reimbursed from the 2025-26 professional development allocation.

Deadline for Reimbursement Paperwork: July 10, 2026 All reimbursement paperwork must be correctly completed and be in the Professional Development office no later than July 10.

The Professional Development office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the summer through July 10.

2509 Broadway -- Vancouver, WA 98663 * Phone 360-695-3397 -- FAX 360-694-8337
Jamie Anderson, President * Graham Picklesimer, Executive Director * Cindy Brown, Admin. Assistant
*Sandy Kokko, WEA-Retired Liaison. * www.vancouverea.org * Facebook: Vancouver EA

TRS/SERS 2 & 3

Information Sessions

SATURDAY May 2, 2026

VANCOUVER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Located downtown at 901 C St.
Meeting held in Columbia Room
(left of the entrance)

HOSTED BY
Washington State
Department of Retirement Services

SESSION 1

10:30 - 11:30 AM

**FOR EMPLOYEES
NEARING RETIREMENT**

SESSION 2

11:45 - 12:45 PM

**EMPLOYEES FACING
INVOLUNTARY
SEPARATION**

If you have questions for VPS Human Resources,
please contact them at:
HRdesk@vansd.org OR 360.313.1080



www.drs.wa.gov • 800.547.6657