



TACKBOARD

The monthly newsletter of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association

Season's greetings

from the VSTA office. However you pass your Winter break, we hope that you enjoy your time with your community, friends and family and that you unplug completely from work.

The In House Table Officers (Katharine, Treena and Terry) have been visiting schools as requested by Staff Reps to bring updates on Bargaining and Remedy. Please take the time to log into the BCTF Portal where you will find a comprehensive update as of November 28th on the state of affairs. The BCTF Bargaining Team has meetings scheduled with the mediator and are hopeful that bargaining will resume in the New Year. We know that BC continues to experience a teacher shortage. To wit, we know that schools are experiencing failures to fill on a more regular basis than last year. As per the Collective Agreement, teachers may claim back lost prep time once they have accrued two (2) blocks of lost prep time. TOC's who are asked to cover a class during a designated prep block should ensure that they complete the form to request payment for that block. (These forms are available in the school office.)



Our next General Meeting is scheduled for January 21st at 4 pm at Tupper. VSTA members will be electing delegates to the BCTF AGM scheduled for March 14-17, 2020. We encourage all interested members to put their names forward for this important work. You can find the nomination form on our website at vsta.ca. We will have more information on Bargaining by then. There will also be an update on the status of our building redevelopment project.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the students of Vancouver public schools and be sure to reward yourself over the holidays!

VSTA GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, January 21, 2020
4:00 pm at Tupper Auditorium**

AGENDA

Election of VSTA Delegates to the BCTF AGM

Every teacher should attend a BCTF AGM at least once in their teaching career. Spending time with over 600 teachers from around the Province broadens your perspective on our Union, our Province and Public Education. BCTF Executive Committee recommendations that set the direction of our Union are debated and voted on. Local resolutions are debated and voted on – this year, the VSTA is sending seven Local Resolutions to the AGM. Equally important, delegates to the BCTF AGM elect members to the BCTF Executive. Who sits on the BCTF EC influences the direction our Union takes as well as who is appointed to the Bargaining team when the time comes. VSTA members will be able to select delegates to the BCTF AGM at the VSTA General Meeting on January 21, 2020. The BCTF AGM will be taking place in Vancouver from March 14-17, 2020 in downtown Vancouver. See the nomination form here <https://preview.tinyurl.com/BCTF-AGM-2020> – it is open to all VSTA members.

Members will also receive a **Bargaining Update** and **Building Update**.



VSTA United Way Campaign Draw

Attention VSTA members! Donate to WIN!

If you use the **United Way-VSB e-pledge system** to make a donation of \$25 or more to this year's United Way campaign, you will automatically be entered into a draw

for a night at the **Inn At the Quay** in New Westminster and dinner at **El Santo**. The United Way-VSB e-pledge form can be found here: <https://eaccess.uwlm.ca/VSB>. You will receive one entry into the draw for every \$25 donated or pledged.

All donations and pledges made before the close of the campaign on January 31st will be entered. (This draw is open to VSTA members only.)

DONATE & WIN



2017-2018 REMEDY CLAIMS DEADLINE – JUNE 30, 2020

The VSTA Executive Committee passed a motion at our December 5, 2019 meeting that **2017-2018 remedy money must be spent by June 30, 2020.**

Teachers received notice of their remedy amounts remaining from Staff Reps in November. If you are unsure if you are owed remedy or the amount available to you, please check with a Staff Rep.

In order to alleviate workload issues at the VSTA office, as over 500 teachers are submitting claim forms, **please submit all your receipts at the same time for reimbursement** using the VSTA Remedy Claim Form (<http://vsta.ca>).

When considering how to use remedy, please keep in mind the following guidelines.

Professional Development:

- Opportunities should align with the

BCTF Pro-D lens– they should be “**relevant** to your teaching practice, **responsible** (meets obligations to colleagues, the Collective Agreement & our profession) and **autonomous** (voluntarily chosen)”

- Credit courses can be accessed with the same conditions as above.
- Remedy may be used to offset travel and accommodation costs. If you are attending Pro D during summer 2020 please submit your receipts prior to the June 30 deadline.

Classroom Resources:

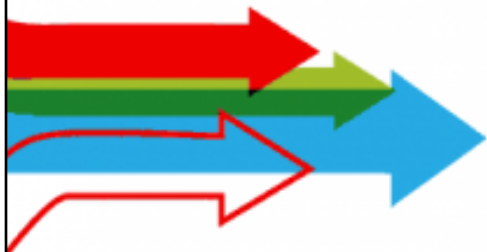
- The VSB has created a process for teachers with Remedy 2017-18 to order technology, equipment and furniture through ePro. This ensures that any of these purchases will be serviced and supported by the VSB. Items purchased outside of the VSB will

not be serviced or supported by the VSB.

- Remedy can be accessed for fieldtrips, and to bring guest speakers/educators into classrooms.
- Remedy cannot be transferred to other members or to Departments.

As per the VSTA Executive motion above - remedy funds not spent by June 30, 2020, will be turned over to the VSTA for member services. This will ensure that any unused funds will continue to support our members and teaching and learning in our schools.

Remedy funds will NOT be paid out in cash to individual teachers.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Future of Public Education

A Focused Discussion of Five Topics

Where are we going? What are we doing?

As teachers, we are accustomed to reflecting on our practice and the various external factors which impact our practice and drive change in the public education system. We are also well aware that as we plan and adapt, members of other interest groups are likewise assessing the public education system based on their imperatives and values and attempting to drive change that responds to those imperatives and values. Confronting what may prove to be an unprecedented shift in the way public school systems are organized, a shift that could radically redefine our roles as teachers, we can seek guidance by examining how we are currently managing change and how change has been managed in the past.

To facilitate this examination, the VSTA is fortunate to host Dr. Jason Ellis from UBC's Department of Educational Studies in guiding five discussions, each relevant to challenges facing the VSB and the province. Dr. Ellis is an Associate Professor in UBC's Department of Educational Studies. His research interests include Children and youth, Disability studies, Educational Administration, History of Education, Policy, Political economy of education, Social and Cultural Foundations of Education, and Urban studies. With the assistance of a graduate student, he has prepared a package of readings for each session however, recognizing the demands on teachers' time, the sessions are organized to allow for full participation without having completed the readings. A light meal will be provided.

- ➔ **SOGI Education**
December 4, 4:00-6:00
VSTA Office. Register by November 28
- ➔ **Choice Programs in Secondary Schools**
December 12, 4:00-6:00
VSTA Office. Register by December 11
- ➔ **Public Money for Private Schools**
January 20 (Pro-D Day), 9:30-12:00
Location TBA. Register by January 13
- ➔ **Inclusion**
February 14 (Pro-D Day), 9:30-12:00
Location TBA. Register by February 7
- ➔ **Teacher Education**
April 6, 4:00-6:00
VSTA Office. Register by March 30

Register with Mo at mo@vsta.ca.