

## VEA Update 10/11/2024

### New Business

#### **Bargaining Brief**

Your bargaining team met with the District on Tuesday, October 1, and again on Monday, October 7th, for our first negotiation sessions of the school year.

We spent quite a bit of each session on Special Education:

Revisiting the current SpEd MOU-

- Current MOU regarding SDC Overages, originally dated 10/19/23, will be extended to the end of this school year.
- TK/Kinder SDC
- We currently do not have language for this. State requirements for TK need to be considered and language will be drafted to provide equity with our general education TK programs.
- Para Ratios
- District agreed to communicate a list of all outside agency paras to sites, so agencies can be contacted when paras are out.

We also received information about upcoming changes to the CSTPs and discussed some of the implications for bargaining.

We continue to work on ways that we can get some of our benefits funded through our LCAP. We will keep you posted as this unfolds.

We are back at the table next Tuesday, October 15th. Thank you for your ongoing support!

#### **Target Solutions Assignments**

Monday, October 14, 2024 is a Districtwide Professional Learning Day for all VCUSD employees. Please read the instructions below:

1. All staff must **first complete all Target Solutions** - Mandated Training Modules.
2. When all Target Solutions modules are complete, staff will participate in D-Prep Training.
  - D-Prep pre-registration instructions are linked here: [D-Prep Training Pre-registration](#)
3. All staff must work from their school or regular work location. No staff will be approved to work remotely for this day.

### Old Business

#### **Union Dues**

There was an unfortunate mix-up concerning your union dues deductions. The dues from the 23-24 schedule were deducted from your September payroll instead of the 24-25 dues schedule. Your October dues deduction will reflect a slightly increased deduction, which will return to your ongoing rate according to the 24-25 dues schedule.

#### **Professional Growth**

Just a reminder that if you have university transcripts or professional growth units that you have not turned in to the district to help you move over on the salary schedule, the deadlines are October 1st and February 1st. These are the dates that HR processes these documents.

University transcripts go straight to HR. [HR@vcusd.org](mailto:HR@vcusd.org).

Professional growth from webinars, conferences, and academic work

outside of an institution of higher learning goes to Cassie Reed. [cnreed14@gmail.com](mailto:cnreed14@gmail.com)

This is Article 3.1.7 in our contract.

#### **VEA's Google Calendar**

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=cjZ0azB1ODc5bG0wazVhMWw2cTlpcGE4dDBAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>

#### **VEA Thursdays**

Per Article 1 of our contract, every Thursday is a VEA day. After the duty day, there should be no scheduled administrative or school meetings.

**Please wear your VEA shirt every Thursday in solidarity.** This simple act of wearing your VEA shirt one day a week, on Thursdays, sends a big message to the Admin that we stand together.

#### **Materials Stipend**

The materials stipend is now \$250. You can use this to purchase supplies for your classroom at your discretion. If you purchase furniture or hardware, it belongs to the district.

#### **Brand New 1<sup>st</sup> year teachers:**

CTA is offering a \$300 classroom setup grant. The teacher must be within their first year of teaching, and they must be a CTA/VEA member. If you have brand new teachers at your site, please pass this along to them.

<https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Life-Events/Classroom-Setup-Grant>

## **CTA Conference schedule**

### **2024**

- LGBTQ = Nov. 15-17
- New Educator = Dec 6-8

### **2025**

- Issues in Edu = Jan 17 – 19
  - Good Teacher North = Jan 31-2
  - CTA/NEA Retired = Feb 27-28
  - Equity & Human Rights = Feb 28-2
  - Summer Institute = July 16-20
- <https://forms.gle/X66HHPBky5DZ7KdWA>

For more information, please visit the CTA Website.

<https://www.cta.org/conferences>,

## **CTA Member Benefits**

CTA offers many different benefits to your membership. Insurance, legal services, scholarships and awards, financial planning, travel discounts, disaster relief, and more. Please visit the link below to explore what is available.

If you have signed up for AF (American Fidelity) disability which is offered through the district during open enrollment, it will be worth your time to compare AF with The Standard.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/member-benefits>

## **CTA Scholarship and Grants**

CTA offers several scholarships and grants. Click on the following link to learn more about them and how to apply.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/scholarships-awards>

## **Professional Growth**

Email Cassie Reed if you have completed courses or attended CTA conferences or other professional development and would like your training reflected in your pay. You can get credit for participating in several CTA Webinars to help you move on the salary schedule.

<https://www.cta.org/events-and-training>

## **Retirement Advice**

If you want retirement advice, I recommend going directly to CalSTRS. Please make an appointment and talk to one of their councilors. Be cautious of outside vendors who visit our school sites

and do not have your best interest in mind.

## **Need help from VEA Leadership?**

If you are called into a meeting with your admin, you have the right to ask what the purpose of the meeting is. If you feel that you might be disciplined, you have the right to invoke your **Weingarten Rights**. By state law, your admin must allow you to have union representation at that meeting. **It is your responsibility to ask.**