

## VCSTA Meeting Minutes (via ZOOM) – September 25, 2021

**Prayer/Call to Order:** (Louise/Karen)

**In Attendance:** Executive: Karen Borkowski (President), Rae-Ann Prinster (Vice-President),  
Louise Fader (Rep to BoD), Sandra Pink (Secretary)

Reps (present)

Marianna Brancati	- OLPH
Jessica DiLoreto	- OLPH
Jasenka Buric	- St. Michael's
Tina Tinaburri	- St. Patrick's Secondary
Amanda Kools	- St. Matthews
Michelle Paone	- St. Francis de Sales
Claudia Martinelli	- St. Helen's
Teresa Lee	- St. Michael's
Franca Scali	- St. Andrew's
Mira Bota	- St. Andrew's
Angelica Agregado	- St. Augustine's
Cecilia Ramirez	- St. Augustine's
Lara Martini	- Our Lady of Fatima
Doris Langlois	- Queen of All Saints
Agnes	- Cloverdale Catholic
Elena Mobilio	- Holy Cross
Adam Grossi	- St. Edmund's
Clarissa Guevara	- St. Paul's
Caterina Cutri	- St. Piux X
Caterina Busto	- St. Francis of Assisi
Mark Mogatas	- St. Mary's
Daryl Bartman	- St. Francis Xavier
Alice Valente	- Our Lady of Assumption
Lisa Saharchuk	- Immaculate Conception, Delta

TOTAL: 28 persons (25 Schools) Present

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### **I VCSTA Business**

- i **REPS** - Rae-Anne is in the process of compiling a list of names of VCSTA Reps from all schools (currently, out of 46 schools, 15 do not have REPS)  
This will help to facilitate and increase efficiency of communication with all schools  
Welcome to new VCSTA Reps and returning VCSTA Reps
- ii **Day-in-Lieu** Reps will remind new teachers to take "day in lieu" for attending JumpStart!  
Encourage these new teachers to take the "day in lieu", so that this can be an ongoing tradition  
(suggest good days to take off – e.g., to do report cards)
- iii **VCSTA Memberships** - \$75 membership fees due  
Reps, please send cheques and email a copy of the list of members to [vcsta.executive@gmail.com](mailto:vcsta.executive@gmail.com)  
Please include percentage of memberships for your school and highlight your school's Rep name

Kindly mail membership dues cheque to:  
Karen Borkowski  
Star of the Sea School  
15024 – 24<sup>th</sup> Ave.,

Surrey, BC V4A 2H8.

The address on the VCSTA website needs to be updated

## **II NETWORKING DAYS** (grade level – 3:15 – 4:15)

Attendance has been very low. Possible reasons from teachers...

- time factor – difficulty to be ready w/after school extra curricular commitments
- Teachers are usually occupied with dismissal procedures at this time
- Not motivating to “go on-line” and attend a workshop at the end of the day
- St. F.X. – dismissal is @3:30

different expectations exist in different schools - some feel they do not get value out of networking

Suggestions: This should be a pro-D with some time off

Karen will put up a short survey on VCSTA website, to get suggestions on how we can improve the networking days

## **III CEC**

-this year CEC will be virtual;

-day 2 - Friday will end at 1pm

-Due to the virtual nature of the CEC, VCSTA Executive cannot go ahead with the plans we discussed (in the area of wellness) for members only.

We will do something for VCSTA members around CEC time

## **IV Other**

### **i Proposed revisions to new contract and VCSTA consultation w/lawyer**

Karen was contacted by Lesya to review proposed revisions/amendments to new contracts and get teachers' feedback within 10 days. This was an impossible timeline.

VCSTA Executive decided that we should consult with a lawyer

Lawyer was hired to review proposed revisions/amendments to new contract

Lawyer proposed changes and perhaps a meeting with CISVA lawyer to look at wording and to make reasonable changes together

Karen read these lawyer's proposals to the REPS at Sept VCSTA Rep meeting

Reps were to bring that information to the VCSTA members at their school

### **ii Bursaries/Scholarships**

Bursary/Scholarship applications – scan and email applications for bursaries/scholarships to VCSTA email

[vcsta.executive@gmail.com](mailto:vcsta.executive@gmail.com)

Bursaries are for teachers (VCSTA members who meet criteria) – due end of December; given out at CEC

Scholarship applications done at the end of the year (due date tbd)

### **iii Questions/Comments from Reps**

- Can VCSTA mass-email principals?

*Principals are not part of VCSTA. They inform teachers of all CISVA business as directed by superintendent's office*

- When VCSTA has important information to share, how do we communicate that info to all teachers in the system?  
*Through VCSTA REPS*
- There is a problem in getting information out to all members... all REPS do not attend meetings  
*Minutes from meetings are posted on VCSTA website*  
*Last year, Karen emailed all Principals to enquire about VCSTA Rep from their school*  
*This year, RaeAnne phoned all principals to compile a list of Rep names*  
*Principals and Superintendent's Office team know that all schools should have a VCSTA Rep representing members at meetings*  
*In the past 2 years – VCSTA Rep meetings have been virtual. This should allow for greater attendance*  
*Suggestion: newsletter/PSA (e.g. Did you know that ..... is happening) – ask your VCSTA REP or visit the VCSTA website*
- VCSTA Member has had a membership for over 25 years. Having no kids, she/he is inquiring whether they can apply for a scholarship for a close family friend or god-child in need  
*If allowed, there should be set criteria if SCHOLARSHIPS extend to people other than immediate members' children*  
*Most scholarships are given to people belonging to a group (e.g., soccer players, members of a parish, etc.)*
- Can we support a child in need collectively? (1<sup>st</sup> Nations child?)  
*Usually members of 1<sup>st</sup> Nations have free access to post-secondary education*  
**VCSTA Executive will consider criteria for “scholarships for others” and bring back to next REP meeting for feedback**
- Share VCSTA info at a staff meeting with all staff vs only with VCSTA members  
*From VCSTA Exec, messages go forward to REPS, and then shared with members ONLY. Is there value in sharing with all staff so that others may be more informed about the benefits of joining? If you feel so, use your discretion and do so.*

#### **iv New Account Debits**

money owing to lawyer - \$5000

annual sponsorship and donation to Archbishop dinner and initiatives (\$1,500)

#### **v Truth & Reconciliation Pro-D Feedback**

General feeling is that the day was enjoyed by all, speakers were “full of wisdom”

Friday of CEC – similar topic

What would we add/change about it? Do we want more of the same?

*Need more guidance on practical things, as a teacher... **so now, what can we do***

*Ways in which indigenous people would like us to present their stories*

*Practical teaching without appropriation*

*What will it look like at the primary level? Intermediate level?*

*Tie it in with grade level networking days – practical application on what was learned at the system wide Truth & Reconciliation Day*

*Past CECs used to be full of practical information, now focus is on BIG ideas and thought*

*Obstacle = we need to be taught by 1<sup>st</sup> nations people*

CISVA has indigenous liaisons that would go to classrooms and teach the students

Teachers need:

emails, phone numbers – ways to communicate and get in touch with people who would be willing to help

Please note: New/Younger Teachers, VCSTA would like to hear your perspective on issues discussed – get involved and give suggestions. You can email VCSTA: [vcsta.executive@gmail.com](mailto:vcsta.executive@gmail.com)

**2021-22 VCSTA Meeting Dates**

	SO Meetings	Executive Meetings	Rep Meetings
September		14	23
October	25	19	
November		16	25
December		7	
January	24	18	27
February		1	
March		29	31
April	25	19	
May		10	AGM -26
June			