

Next General Membership Meeting

Saturday April 2, 2022

Meetings start at 10:00 am

Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC

WEB PAGE: www.iuoe963.ca

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2019-2023

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AUDITORS: Antoinette Cominetti, Livia Hisaoka, Yvette Menges

CONDUCTOR: Analida Leung

GUARD: Herman Sheng

Change of Address/Contact Information

If your contact information has changed please make sure you notify the union office as soon as possible (ph. 604-876-6287). The local union uses the most up-to-date information in our database for communications.

Feel free to use the form below and fax to: 604-876-5687

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN INK

IUOE Local 963 Please change the contact information accordingly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

Personal Email: _____



International Union of Operating Engineers Local 963

Collective Bargaining Update

The Newsletter For VSB Operations Staff Supervision Aides Cafeteria Staff

For the latest information regarding provincial bargaining please see all updates on our web page at: www.iuoe963.ca

Here is the March 10th bulletin from the Provincial Bargaining Committee:

Far apart on money issues, more work to be done

The K-12 provincial bargaining committee met last week with their counterparts from the BC Public School Employers' Association. This third session of bargaining focused primarily on monetary issues, including wages and term for a new provincial framework agreement.

After years of chronic underfunding by past provincial governments, inflation driving up our province's already high cost of living, and the toll of a two year long pandemic, school support workers are falling farther behind. From the opening of these talks, the K12 bargaining committee has been clear that the top priority for school support workers is the need for wage increases that recognize the vital role they played in our public schools and our communities.

In last month's throne speech, the provincial government committed to tying increases to provincial minimum wages to inflation rates, a policy it says will "make everyday life more affordable" for workers.

The K-12 bargaining committee is firm that the starting point to fairness for school support workers are wage increases that reflect the rising cost-of-living in line with current inflation rates. But the BCPSEA's first wage offer falls far short of addressing the financial pressures being carried by school support workers and their families and does not live up to the province's commitment to "leave no worker behind."

Our members are highly trained, qualified, and dedicated to public service. They are ready to take on new opportunities- such as expanding our school systems to be places for early learning that can be for childcare, before and after school. They are ready to face new challenges- as they did throughout the pandemic keeping our schools clean and healthy, and keeping them running for all students.

But to keep serving BC communities, K-12 support staff need to be properly resourced, treated with respect, and paid fairly. The province and BCPSEA must live up to their commitment and recognize the crucial role school support workers have in a high-quality public education system that better serves and cares for students, offers more support for families, and benefits everyone in our communities.

The parties are committed to meet again in the future to continue bargaining. [Over]

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Web Page: www.iuoe963.ca

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Provincial Bargaining Update #4 (cont'd from page 1)

Over the past 2 years, our members have been told time and time again that their work is critical to keeping students learning, families supported, schools clean and healthy, and communities thriving. We remain hopeful a wage settlement can be reached that reflects the value and importance of our work and does not leave our members behind.

Local Bargaining Update

Local bargaining preparation continues as we await the outcome of provincial bargaining which is now on hold.

Your Local Bargaining Committee will continue to meet to review membership surveys and develop local bargaining proposals to present at the appropriate time.

In the meanwhile, the **Local Bargaining Survey will remain open until the end of March 2022.** If you wish to receive a Local Bargaining Survey and have not already sent your personal email address to the union you can still do so by sending an email to: tdevivo@iuoe963.ca

To date almost 400 members have provided their personal email addresses and have been emailed a bargaining survey. As always please check for the latest bargaining news on our webpage at www.iuoe963.ca

COVID Updates announced for K-12

March 10, 2022

The provincial health officer announced changes to several public health orders this week, meaning the BC Centre for Disease Control has updated its Public Health Guidance for the K-12 sector.

The revised guidance **will take effect on the first day of the school's spring break.**

The major changes include:

*Masks will no longer be required, but instead a personal choice of students, staff, and visitors.

*Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should follow current BCCDC advice on how long to isolate. A summary of BCCDC guidance can be found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools#safe-schools>

*People developing symptoms while at school, and who are unable to participate in regular activities, should be supported to go home.

*Schools can go back to routine visitor policies, and routine pick up/drop off practices.

*Events taking place in schools with only students, staff and necessary volunteers from that school should be limited to 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever is greater. Once the PHO *Gathering and Events Order* is lifted on April 7, all events can return to 100% capacity.

*Events and field trips taking place in venues outside a school can take place with proof of vaccination, but schools should make every effort not to plan activities that might exclude someone if proof of vaccination is required.

Schools are being directed to continue to be supportive environments where both those continuing or not continuing with personal prevention practices (e.g., wearing a mask or face covering) will be supported and treated with respect.

VSB Retirement Seminar-April 20/22

VSB Employee Services is planning a retirement seminar for **Wednesday April 20, 2022.**

To attend, employees must be a minimum of 50 years of age, not attended previously, and retiring within five years in order to attend. The plan is to have an in-person seminar, but if this is not possible, the VSB will look to holding the seminar virtually.

If you are interested please email employeeservices@vsb.bc.ca. Once signed up the VSB will send a confirmation to your school board email account.

Seniority Lists Online

Seniority lists for all groups are posted online. Simply sign into *VSB Sharepoint* using your VSB Username and Password (vsbworld.sharepoint.com). It looks like this:

