



Solidarity Report

It's hard to beat a person who never gives up.

~ Babe Ruth

Bargaining Update

As we close out the final two days for the 10-month employees in working for VCS, we find ourselves reflecting upon the year and planning for what still remains to be done.

We are currently at the bargaining table for support staff and teachers. VUE has come to the table in good faith with the desire to work with the district to find solutions to the issues that have been brought forward by our members, and to reach an agreement that will mutually benefit VUE members and VCS.

Sadly, the district does not have the same intention. The VCS bargaining team has presented punitive and regressive proposals that work to strip away teacher and staff rights, protections, and privileges that have been in place for many years.

The district team receives their direction from the Superintendent and the board members, while VUE receives direction from teachers and support staff.

The district's proposals are focused on power and control. The proposals remove the ability for teachers and staff to have a voice in the decisions that are made in the district. For example, the district wants to remove VUE from the Calendar Committee. We believe that this is just mean spirited and intended to lock teachers and staff out of having a voice in the process. They are also attempting to remove payroll slots for union benefits. Another attack on your ability to choose for yourself.

The district is also attempting to control every minute of the contractual workday. Their proposals attempt to remove all protections to planning time, before and after school time, and the limits on the number of meetings allowed during the week and each month.

We know that one of the most significant issues teachers struggle with is NOT HAVING ENOUGH TIME to get things done. The workload within VCS has not been reduced, but the district believes that your time should be.

They continue to want more from us, but fail to recognize what we need to get the work done.

For many teachers, staff, principals, and even senior management, working for Volusia County Schools is becoming less and less desirable. VCS is the example of a district gone wrong, and we are hemorrhaging educational professionals at all levels.

VUE and VCS are scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, June 4th. This will be a very important day. It will determine how our talks will proceed during the summer. Your VUE Bargaining Team is committed to doing whatever it takes to reach an agreement that creates improvements in your working conditions. Salaries have not yet been discussed as Mr. Seis, the CFO, is still working to wrap up the fiscal year which ends on June 30, 2024.



Tuesday's bargaining sessions will be held at the district office in Deland (DAC). Bargaining sessions are public meetings and we encourage you to attend if you are able.

One of the most impactful moments in the history of our union was several years ago when members of our union attended a mediation hearing at Deland High. There were so many of us in attendance that the auditorium could not hold us and there was an overflow area outside. At one point, the discussion had turned so adversarial, we stood and held hands in unity and solidarity to show the members of the school board and the Superintendent that we would not agree to less, and that we deserved to be recognized and respected.

If you believe that you deserve to be respected for the work you do. If you believe that your voice matters. If you believe that you should be treated like the professional you are, then we need to see you at DAC on Tuesday.

Support staff bargaining is from 8:00 am until 11:00 am, and instructional bargaining begins at 1:00 pm and ends at 4:00 pm. Please try to wear red.

Now is the time for VUE members and potential members to unite for a better VCS. The contract covers all of us. This is our moment of truth. Will we step up or will we allow others to take away all that we have? Solidarity.



PERC Notification

The Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) is moving forward with the election to determine if the Volusia United Educators will continue to represent the employees in the instructional and support bargaining units.

As required by the process, VCS is required to post a notification in conspicuous locations where employees are able to view the notice and thereby be informed of the election.

Do not be alarmed by this notification. This is one of the first steps in the process.

As the process moves forward, which may occur during the summer, we will keep you informed. Thank you.



Summer Professional Learning

The VUE Professional Development Department is gearing up for our summer workshops. This summer we will offer three (3) ESOL courses, at no cost, to our members.

If you need to satisfy your ESOL requirements, VUE is the answer. Our summer courses are one week long, require the completion of a portfolio, and result in 60 credits that count toward satisfying the mandated requirement.

We will begin on Monday, June 10th with the following courses:

- **ESOL Culture:** facilitator- Wanda Jones
 - Course # 12552
 - Section # 109921
 - **June 10th - 14th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm @ the VUE Office**
- **ESOL Methods:** facilitator- Dr. Teresa Ward
 - Course #72406
 - Section # 109919
 - **June 10th - 14th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm @ the VUE Office**
- **ESOL Assessments:** facilitator- Betsey Sotomayor
 - Course # 23106
 - Section # 109753
 - **June 17th - 21st 9:00 am - 4:00 pm @ the VUE Office**

Please register today using My PGS. Seats are sure to go quickly, so don't delay.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Lekita Howard at lekita.howard@floridaea.org.



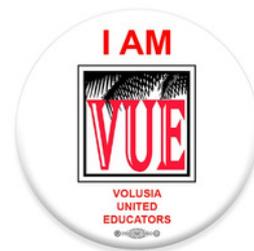
VUE Summer Office Hours

The VUE office will shift to our summer hours beginning on Monday, June 10th. The office staff will be available Monday - Thursday from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm.

If you have any questions, concerns, or if you are interested in volunteering in the office, please contact us at (386) 238-1605.



Remember to stay up to date by following us on Facebook. Like our page at **Volusia United Educators!**



Membership QR Code
Ask a friend to join today!

In Solidarity,
Elizabeth Albert

