
Concern Regarding Rising Costs and Reliability of Student Transportation

From Janice Nice <jnice@shaw.ca>

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To Transportation <Transportation@sd23.bc.ca>

Cc Board of Education <Boardof.Education@sd23.bc.ca>

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Dear Transportation Department,

I am writing as a parent to express serious concern about the cost and reliability of school bus transportation in our district.

When my oldest daughter Sophie started high school in 2021, the annual bus fee was \$300. By 2023–2024 it had risen to \$400, then to \$450 in 2024–2025, and now in 2025–2026 my younger daughter Olivia's fee is \$525. This represents a 75% increase since 2021 and a 16.7% increase in just one year.

I understand the district's position that transportation is ultimately a parental responsibility. However, for families where both parents work full time to pay bills and put food on the table, driving children to and from school daily is simply not realistic. Public transit is not always a solution either, since a monthly student bus pass costs \$55, adding up to \$550 per year, which is even more than the district's transportation fee.

On top of these steep increases, families have also faced the ongoing issue of last-minute bus cancellations across many routes. These cancellations leave parents scrambling to arrange transportation and often put working families in an impossible position. Many parents pay for a school bus seat precisely because they have no other way to get their children to school, yet when routes are canceled last minute, many students simply end up missing school because their parents are at work and cannot drop everything to drive them. To make matters worse, there is no compensation for families when service is not provided.

In addition to my own experience, I have seen many other parents in the community expressing the same concern. I've read a few social media posts with numerous parents responding with similar frustrations, saying this sharp price increase will be very difficult for them to afford. Families are already stretched thin, yet the district continues to raise fees while higher-level administrators maintain their raises. It feels as though costs are being shifted onto parents who are already struggling.

I recognize that subsidies are available for low-income families, and that support is important. However, it is not only low-income families who are struggling. Under the current economic climate, many middle-income families are also finding these costs extremely difficult to manage, yet they do not qualify for assistance at the school level. The burden of these increases is being felt across the board.

Parents are paying more than ever, yet we are receiving a service that is both costly and unreliable. I urge the district to reconsider the larger financial burden being placed on families, to address the issue of frequent cancellations, and to review the fairness of charging parents higher and higher fees without providing consistent service.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Janice Nice