

From: [Catherine Pynappels](#)
To: [Amy Geistlinger](#)
Cc: [Lee-Ann Tiede](#); [Julia Fraser](#); [Chantelle Desrosiers](#); [Wayne Broughton](#); [Lisa Guderyan](#); [Valene Johnson](#); [Lise Bradshaw](#); [Dew.MLA, Gavin](#); [Delta Carmichael](#); [Kevin Kaardal](#)
Subject: Re: Central Okanagan Bus Fees
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:26:03 PM

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Hello,

Thank you for your response. Can you confirm with me that the allocated budget for school district 23 includes the budget for the five Executives that are currently taking a 1.4 million dollar annual compensation package?

As well I am curious to know how the children in Vernon British Columbia are able to take the bus at \$80 annually but Kelowna children have to pay 600 if this increase is approved?

Cornell British Columbia has zero fees to get their children to school on the bus. All of these towns are in British Columbia.

On Thu, Feb 20, 2025, 10:11 p.m. Amy Geistlinger <Amy.Geistlinger@sd23.bc.ca> wrote:

Dear Catherine,

The Board has received your emails dated February 18 and 20, 2025.

While the \$75 transportation (busing) increase per student is not minor, and will certainly be a noticeable budget item for families who enroll in this service, it unfortunately doesn't come close to paying for the costs associated with busing in our district. The provincial government grants our school district \$600,000 each year to contribute towards transportation/busing costs. In addition to the fees collected from parents, the district *still* has had to take approximately 4.4 million dollars out of the operating budget to cover the remaining costs of busing. That money, if not spent on busing, would be going directly into classroom supports (teachers, CEAs, etc.).

Trustees agree that increased funding dedicated to transportation in our school district would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to advocate for increased funding from the Ministry of Education and Child Care, please feel free to contact them with your concerns. We appreciate when parents add to our advocacy efforts!

Additionally, for the purposes of clarification, Central Okanagan Public Schools trustees get an average stipend of \$24,021 per year. (Page 55 of our Statement of Financial Information:

[9839-2ec72b6b464f/SOFI%20Report%20June%2030%202024.pdf](#)). You can find the wages of exempt senior staff in that report as well, and you'll find that they're comparable (on the lower end) to other similarly sized school districts in the province.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,
Amy Geistlinger

From: Lise Bradshaw <Lise.Bradshaw@sd23.bc.ca>
Sent: February 19, 2025 1:11 PM
To: All Trustees <All-Trustees@sd23.bc.ca>; Kevin Kaardal <Kevin.Kaardal@sd23.bc.ca>; Delta Carmichael <Delta.Carmichael@sd23.bc.ca>; Jon Rever <Jon.Rever@sd23.bc.ca>
Cc: Mona Essler <Mona.Essler@sd23.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Central Okanagan Bus Fees

Board correspondence below.

From: Catherine Pynappels [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 4:41 PM
To: Board of Education <Boardof.Education@sd23.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Central Okanagan Bus Fees

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Catherine Pynappels [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Feb 18, 2025, 12:43 p.m.
Subject: Central Okanagan Bus Fees
To: <Gavin.Dew.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

Hi Gavin,

I am writing to you regarding this article about bus fees once again going up for the Central Okanagan families. How is this justifiable? Look at the compensation being paid out to the 5 board members? It is disgusting that they can keep giving themselves raises year after year while us families have to fork out more money each year just to get our children to school. 50% increase in 5 years if this increase is approved.

We need more Provincial funding to help with this situation. Is this you that addresses this for JR residents? We are SO taxed to death already in everyday life but yet not enough tax funds are allocated to school bus transportation???

I do not live on a public bus route- we have no other way to get our children to school.

<https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/533556/Central-Okanagan-school-board-to-debate-increasing-busing-fees-again#533556>

More fee increases to get our kids to school on the bus? Increasing fees on parents year after year to pay for atrocious compensation, included with the "operation costs".

2020 fees were \$300 per child- if increased to \$600 per child, that is double the price for parents.

School District 23 Board (5 Members) Compensation:

2023/24 Compensation \$1,409,806 (\$105,741 Raise from previous year)

2022/23 Compensation \$1,304,065 (\$114,766 Raise from previous year)

2021/22 Compensation \$1,189,299

Kevin Kaardell earns \$356,012 per year in compensation!

How about the \$250k shortfall in the budget is lightened by reviewing these huge incomes for five staff.

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Catherine Pynappels