
FW: Concerns Regarding Rising School Bus Fees

From School Board Office <SchoolBoard.Office@sd23.bc.ca>

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To Lise Bradshaw <Lise.Bradshaw@sd23.bc.ca>

From: Jennifer Reid [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:52 PM

To: School Board Office <SchoolBoard.Office@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: Concerns Regarding Rising School Bus Fees

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Dear SD23 Board of Education,

I am writing to express my frustration and outrage with the continued rise in school bus fees. The latest rise to \$525 for the 2025–2026 school year is unreasonable and places an unnecessary burden on families. Since 2021, the fees have increased from \$300 to \$525— that is a 75% increase. This is an unreasonable burden for families, especially when we are already stretched by the rising costs of everything from groceries to extracurricular activities.

In my situation, the frustration is even greater. My son is enrolled in Hockey Academy and is not allowed to bring his gear on the bus - an issue that affected us last year as well. This rule forces me to drive him to and from the rink myself at least twice a week. Realistically, he only uses the bus two or three times a week, yet I am still required to pay the full \$525 fee for this partial service. Worse yet, the service frequently has last-minute cancellations, and we are never reimbursed for the trips we miss.

I want to emphasize that being a “hockey parent” does not mean I have unlimited resources to cover these costs. In fact, the price of hockey has risen by a couple of hundred dollars as well, and like many families, I am struggling to keep up with all the increases. It is especially frustrating to see that Kelowna families are paying significantly higher rates than those in neighbouring school districts. Why are our fees so disproportionate? Parents deserve a clear explanation, as well as more equitable options, such as reduced rates for partial use. Families in our district should not be penalized simply because of where we live, nor should we be forced to pay full price for unreliable or restricted service. I urge the district to revisit this fee increase, provide transparency around costs, and work toward solutions that reflect fairness and the realities families are facing.

Sincerely,
Jenn Reid