

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, December 27, 2024 12:47:42 PM

To: School Board Office <SchoolBoard.Office@sd23.bc.ca>; Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>; Lisa Guderyan <Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca>; mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca <mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca>

Subject: City of Kelowna Bus Stop Concerns - Black Mountain Students

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season and may 2025 be a happy year for you.

I would like to start this email with the caveat, that YES, I screwed up. As a single mother with a very busy schedule and demanding job I do not keep a proper watch on the shared email address pertaining to my son's academic schedule. As a result of my ignorance, I missed the bus transportation application for the 2024-25 school year. My son graduated from [REDACTED] and started [REDACTED] in September 2024. Because I failed to get the transportation application in on time, they were unable to accommodate him on the school bus. I was told he would be put on a wait list and have heard nothing since.

I have no problem with having my son take public transportation. He just turned 15 last week and don't believe this to be an unreasonable request.

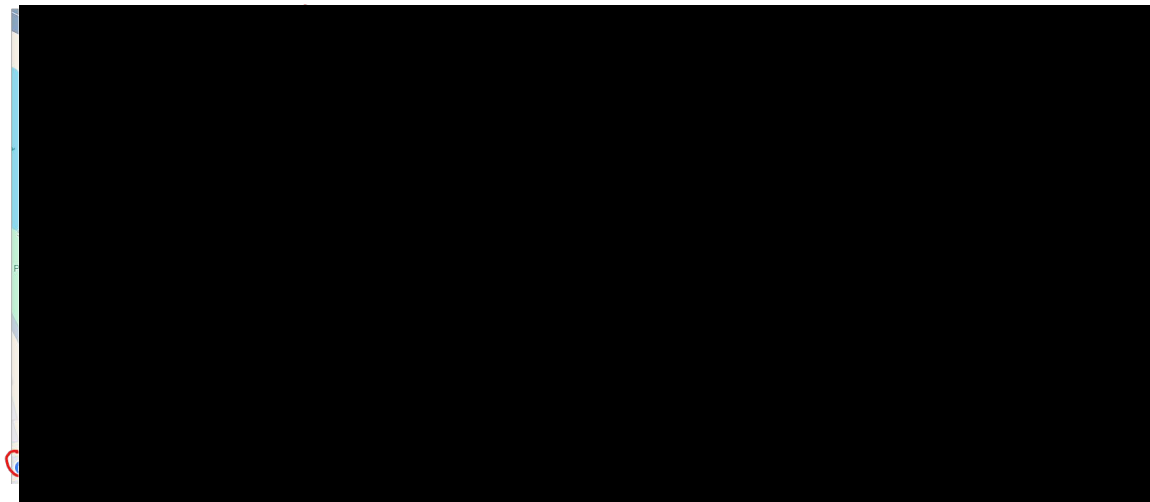
What I do however have strong concerns about is;

1. the path to which he is expected to take to catch his school bus in the morning
2. the timing of the bus schedule for the specific bus he takes to get to [REDACTED]

1. THE PATH

- below is a snippet of the path he has to walk in order to catch his bus. We live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] You can see the starting point of our house on the bottom left of the snippet.
Forgive me if it is too small to read, but the distance is so great, it was difficult to keep it to a legible magnification on a single monitor screen. In order for my son [REDACTED] to get to the bus stop on the OPPOSITE SIDE OF [REDACTED], he needs to first walk up to the highway from our house, which in itself takes about 4 mins. He then needs to walk east bound in the OPPOSITE direction of the bus stop in order to get to a set of lights that would allow him to cross; this is equivalent of approximately 2 city blocks. He then needs to cross the highway and double ALL THE WAY BACK PAST the point where he initially came to [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], in order to get the ONLY AVAILABLE bus stop on the North side of [REDACTED]. The entire walk takes 15 mins in good weather not counting the wait at the cross walk. It is also notable that there is no sidewalk for him to take from our house to the highway, so he is expected to be super cautious and paying extra attention to traffic on that section of the walk.

- alternatively, he can catch the bus on the SOUTH side of the highway and ride it through all the [REDACTED] neighborhoods it takes to then come out at [REDACTED] and continue west on [REDACTED] eventually coming the same bus stop noted above before continuing on.



2. THE BUS SCHEDULE - the LAST bus he can possibly take that comes within a 4 min walking distance to [REDACTED] at either 8:07 am on the South side of [REDACTED] or at 8:15 am on the North side of [REDACTED]. IF HE MISSES this bus, the next bus does not go as far and he is expected to walk 14 minutes thru [REDACTED] amid all the closed off construction and / or maneuvering around homelessness in the dark. It is very easy to say, 'well the kid better be on the 8:07 bus or he is SOL'. No, I cannot accept that.

I get that my child needs to learn to be resilient and deal with challenges of public transit, and I myself am the initial cause of these frustrations, but it shouldn't be THIS hard. I have had to accept the task of driving him to school in the morning as I don't trust things to not go wrong leading to me getting a call at work requiring me to come assist my stranded kid. I am hoping for another solution to our challenging dilemma;