



TRANSPORTATION STEERING COMMITTEE RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS

January 31, 2020

KELOWNA, BC – Using the feedback from two surveys that generated over 3,500 responses and hundreds of conversations at five public consultations sessions, the Transportation Steering Committee releases the attached recommendations to the Planning and Facilities Committee. The committee will review the recommendations and will either recommend them as is or amend them prior to being sent to the Board of Education for final approval.

Formed in the 2018-19 school year in response to increasing community demands and unsustainable cost increases in Transportation, the Transportation Steering Committee was established by the Board of Education to make recommendations to create a sustainable transportation system that better meets the needs of the community. All of the timelines, presentations, survey results and recommendations from the Committee's work is published on the [Transportation Review Website](#).

The remaining timeline to complete the work of the committee is as follows:

Date	Action
February 5, 2020	Recommendations reviewed and recommended to the Board of Education as presented or amended by the Planning and Facilities Committee (Public Meeting 6:00 PM at School Board Office)
February 12, 2020	The Board of Education reviews and approves the recommendations of the Planning and Facilities Committee as presented or amended. (Public Meeting 6:00 PM at School Board Office)
February 13, 2020	Final decision and information package sent out to all parents
February 17, 2020	Registration opens for busing service

The District welcomes the community's feedback and asks for feedback to be submitted [here](#) by February 7, 2020. Responses will be shared with the Board of Education at the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting. The Transportation Steering Committee Recommendations will be presented at the Planning and Facilities meeting on February 5, 2020 and the agenda is available at <https://pub-sd23.escribemeetings.com/>.



TRANSPORTATION STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT WE'VE HEARD	PROPOSED SOLUTION
Parents need to be notified of their seat status earlier so they can make arrangements.	• Deadline of May 31 to register for busing. • Any eligible applications after May 31 will be provided a seat if there are seats available. • Any applications made by the deadline will be informed of their status by July 31.
Eligibility distances need to be reviewed to reflect the age of students and challenges with topography.	• Eligibility limits lowered for elementary (3.0 km) and middle school students (3.6 km). • Additional safe bus stops established in areas with challenging topography than flat areas to reflect more difficult walking conditions. • Limit remains at 4.8 kms for secondary school students.
Courtesy seat assignment should be prioritized based on distance and age	• Courtesy seats are those seats not required for eligible riders • Courtesy seats are first allocated to elementary school and middle school students • Distance continues being the main determining factor • Other criteria such as grade and timestamp have been added when distance is the same
Public transit is a viable option for secondary school students, if there is adequate service available	• No areas will be defined as having adequate service for the 2020/21 school year. • The District will work with BC Transit and if an area has sufficient public transit service to support secondary school transportation, the District will redirect to support other areas. • District staff will continue to collaborate with BC transit to create better transit opportunities for secondary students.
Fees should increase to cover a greater share of costs and/or increase service	• Fees are recommended to increase to \$450 per year. • This amount matches the amount charged for youth to ride transit for 10 months. All students that require busing will pay the same amount. • This amount will generate between \$900,000 and \$1,000,000 to cover the anticipated costs to implement the new eligibility limits in the first year and to reduce the operating subsidy in future years. • This amount increases the family's portion of the transportation costs to transport their child to 48%.
A family's situation should be considered when setting policy on fees.	• Continue to provide multiple student discounts of 50% for the 3rd and 4th child and no charge for the 5th and additional children in a family. • Allow for payment plans for the transportation charge through the District's fee system. • Allow parents to apply for a fee subsidy under low income thresholds.
Busing for schools and programs of choice should remain status quo.	• No changes are being proposed to busing for schools or programs of choice • Busing will continue to be provided if the program is at the student's English catchment school