



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AGENDA ITEM February 12, 2020

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR SCHEDULED ACTION ITEM:

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Transportation Task Force Steering Committee Recommendations (Attachment)

	Please provide your feedback. This will be provided to the Board of Education at the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting.
	I find it quite alarming that the fee would double for riders. Unfortunately my wage does not double . Yes I understand an increase is necessary but to double the fee is a bit hard to swallow and adds stress to a family . I have 2 children that will be bussing so 900.00 is impossible for me to pay at once unless you allow a monthly fee of 100.00 per month until paid in full. Please consider the lower to middle class family's that live paycheque to paycheque . Thank you
	Everything appears to be reasonable. My only concern would be the fact that bussing for French, as well as English, catchment schools not being provided. As we are a bilingual country, I don't believe that bussing should be the reason that a family wouldn't choose French immersion.
	We are in agreement with all proposed changes with the exception of the increase in fees to \$450/child from the current \$200. The fee increase is excessive and I think the school board needs to be more realistic with it's fee increase. Basing it's fees on a for profit company like BC transit is offensive. Maybe salaries for over paid adminstration could be reviewed and lowered to make up the difference.
	The proposed cost is ridiculous. Where or how am I going to get \$450? \$200 was difficult enough. We have a two working full time with a mortgage we hardly have enough to pay mortgage, utilities and food. We have 2 older vehicles (cars). We have never been on a vacation. I cut my families hair and save every penny. We buy second hand clothing whenever possible. Rediculous to have to pay to get my children to school to learn. \$200 I could live with but over double isn't possible.
	With the increase in fees for busing. Please setup a monthly payment system. This is possible even though for years the transportation department have said it is not.. It would be absurd to expect families to be able to pay for these costs in one payment.
	In your requests asking for input from the public you ranked all special needs including their bussing against everything else. That's unjust and shouldn't be fair to us parents. I have one child taking special Ed bussing and my other child taking transit because we have no public school bus that will take him to his school yet it's only 250 yards away from KSS. Now your asking for equal amounts to public transit per student and only get a discount if we have a 3rd child or more. That's 900\$ dollars for a low income family to fork out in this city . That's almost a month of rent for us.
	I don't understand how you feel it is better to raise the cost per child to \$450, and yet still have free bus service for students in programs of choice. My son played volleyball at Dr. Knox in Grade 7 this year. They took the bus to their games. I rode the bus one day as I was coaching. There were 18 kids on a bus that would hold 40 kids. That was on the way to the game. On the way home there were 2 kids and myself on the bus. If you want to talk about a gross waste of funds, it's continuing to offer free buses to programs of choice. I don't understand how you think it is feasible to charge someone to get their kid to school over charging them for participating in an activity of choice. Charging \$450 per child, so for my family would be \$1,150 is absurd and puts a significant financial strain on our family. Especially when you think of the number of useless bus trips that are being made for programs of choice.

	This is an unacceptable expectation that families will be able to afford to get their children to school.
	The increase of fees to \$450 per child is not achievable for many family's with 2 children, never mind larger families. If \$900 is expected to be payable in full (as bussing fees are currently expected to be paid) it might be more acceptable to families if payment was set up with a monthly payment plan of some sort. We are in an area where there isn't even public transit to fall back on which only leave us the only option of driving our Elementary school aged children to and from school which doesn't work if both parents work 8-5. Not to mention a discomfort with sending children under 10 on a public bus.
	If there isn't room in the budget for busing to be affordable then increase the bussing budget. Pull from another area. \$450 a child is not affordable for working families. We need bussing for our kids but how do we afford it!!
	I have a few questions and I also live in Lake Country 1 Why do parents get stuck with just the one year of a 450 dollar hit, cause then those people that follow behind, don't have to pay anything. All thanks to those that first year, so maybe parents should take their kids off the bus for this coming year so they don't have to pay, then get the benefits the following years. Maybe that's what will happen, 450 dollars a child is a lot of money for people on low incomes. 2. BC transit gets a discount on fuel called a Go green , I believe that's what it's called, they get this discount because their saving pollution by driving the working class to work, so why doesn't a school bus get the same thing???????? for driving school kids to school, there are more kids than parents. 3. I believe that every child should be driven to school on a school bus, the new buses don't pollute like the old ones did. The amount of pollution that all these parents are spewing out around the school is terrible and the school district should be ashamed, the kids are taught about pollution and how to help with this planet but the school district is doing nothing to help. I've personally talked to kids who are just getting out of vehicles at the kiss and drop or kids that help there and they all say that their throat feel scratchy after standing there a few minutes. to help make it easier to drop off your kids when hundreds of parents are driving them to school , they do need someone out there to keep traffic flowing. ICBC should be involved in this too, proven fact, more accidents happen within 10 km of your house, but these parents still drive. PLUS Why can't money for green initiatives through the government help with this. SO SAD. 4. As I said, I live in lake country and it's so spread out that kids can't walk the roads and the only really safe way is in a bus, yet we're classed the same as kelowna where there is transit buses everywhere, more buses should be available. You said the increase matches transit rates, but we don't have that much transit here.
	I agree with the report. I don't believe that school buses should be ran for cheaper than the city buses for students.
	\$450 per student is ridiculous . Doubling my fees for two kids is a hard hit to the pocket book. Thanks for putting the squeeze on the middle class once again. I'd rather pay transit cause with a transit pass my kids can get around town to a lot more places not just one way to and from school!!!!
	After reviewing the proposal I do agree change is needed. Shortening the catchment for Elementary is a nice change. However, the anticipated cost increase is drastic and shocking. I am hopeful the board will consider the most affordable option as possible. If a payment plan is going to be introduced it would be helpful if parents had the option to choose their instalment plan. The current 2 payment system may be difficult for parents if the fees increase to \$450/child. Also how are the accessible bus routes and Special

	needs students affected by these new changes? There wasn't much on this topic in the proposal; I understand we are a small portion of the busing population but it is equally important. For instance, when comparing the rates for the proposed new plan to B.C. Transit rates and working with the transit system for route planning and possible additional youth taking public transit to school, where do the special needs students fit? My child could not take city transit to school due the area we live in, the bus is not frequent and the stop locations are anything but accessible for them. What is the alternative for these kids? I appreciate your time in reviewing my concerns and look forward to the final plan.
	Do not increase the fees , transportation should be provided for a reasonable cost .
	You do realize that a 450\$ (10 month)student transit pass is good to ride the public transit buses anywhere around town 7 days a week? How can you possibly charge the same for a ride only to and from school 5 days a week?? This is not a comparable service whatsoever! Not sure how you rationalized this one??
	The policy should include consideration or direction for families of children with diversabilities who perhaps will never have the option of using transit and for whom independent travel is extremely challenging or unsafe.
	Doubling the fees for students will absolutely cause hardship for most middle class families who will not fall under the low income bracket. Those is rural areas who have no access to public transit have no other choice. Perhaps the government needs to be approached for grants because cutting access to busses to get an education is not an option. Putting extra financial stress on parents who already struggle to make ends meet in this economy is frankly sickening and shameful.
	As soon as I received that questionnaire I KNEW this- (raising the cost) was going to be the outcome!!!! 1000\$ to bus my 2 children to school and back??????????? Does that include a transit pass for them to!? Cause that will be another 1200\$ a year again so they can be mobile. Who the can afford this???
	Your bussing has been a shit show this school year and so many families have been inconvenienced due to whatever corporate issues and excuses you've throw our way. And now you want to charge more for sub par service! This is a pretty ridiculous joke.
	this proposed fee increase is not affordable to families. It's the average family that this will impact if you don't qualify for subsidy. bussing should be covered for all students that need to get to and from school. we have 3 children that we have had to pay for bussing over the years and even at the current rate that was pricey. completely disagree with this proposal and think it will put a lot of families that have to work in a very difficult situation.
	The school board saves a lot of money by not building schools in every neighbourhood. Consequently, that savings must go to offset transportation costs to students who do not have a school to go to within 4 km of their residence. The province provides transportation money each year. There should not be a cost for transportation to public school. The \$450 transportation cost is completely inappropriate!
	To the SD23 Transportation Committee: RE: Proposed Changes to School Bus Fees and Other Changes I have been following the proposal to increase school bus fees - in fact, to double them. I'm upset about having to alter my budget, potentially, by such a drastic amount. While in theory it might be a fair sum to be paying because it's similar to public transit, I do not think it's fair to suddenly jump the rate. I think there should be a cap on annual increases, in the neighborhood of \$25. If it is increased to \$250, people may grumble, but will likely adjust and carry on using the bus.

	Also, with such a large fee increase, there is the likelihood that other parents like myself would switch to dropping off their children, which would increase greatly the traffic at each school. Traffic is already problematic at some schools. Finally, I would like to applaud you for including in your recommendations, picking up children in areas that are unsafe and challenging to walk - kids who previously have not qualified to ride the bus because of distance. I think this is a wonderful proposed improvement. I hope it passes. That would not have affected my children, but it has always concerned me for other families. Thank you for inviting feedback.
	\$900 to get my girls to school is a crazy amount of money that I wouldn't be able to afford.
	The neighbourhood of needs a bus system to rutland elementary.
	Please no increase in bus fares My child is in Tallus ridge, there is no safe way for the kids to walk to middle school from this neighbourhood
	Please do not increase the amount for student busing. As a single mom it's hard enough to cover the cost of rent, bills, food, extra costs with programs in school or out of. I already have 2 jobs. I also sign up for the early busing fee of \$175. And that is such a amazing deal. My child doesn't have the choice to walk. Or even use the city transit. (To unreliable). I am unable to drive him. I can not afford any increase.
	The BC School Act guarantees the legal rights of all school-age children to a complete education program leading to graduation in public schools, free of charge. Charging for transportation puts an undue financial hardship on parents and guardians. Some school districts with the help of the province have eliminated transportation fees i.e. https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016EDUC0099-001740 Did SD 23 apply for the provincial transportation fund that year and eliminate transportation...where is the money going? School boards are funded by the tax payers and based on their annual budget spends the funds to create the best education possible for our students. If the school board chooses to save money by building less schools then the trade-off is some of the savings need to be used to subsidize the busses for children who do not live in a neighborhood with a school. Therefore, unless the school board wants to build more schools then they should spend the money to transport the kids to school!! Transportation fees should be eliminated for the kids who live in a location where there isn't a school within 4 km or where topography i.e. mountain prohibits safe and reasonable walking.
	I am confused to drastic fee increase when there are not more buses added to the provided service. As well, the bus routes are not changing. We have three children and there is no way we can afford that increase in rates...now what happens? Public transit allows unlimited riding but is not an option where we live as there is no service. I think it is ridiculous for that increase and think that some other options need to be taken into consideration.
	The proposed price hike is unacceptable. This will make it nearly or entirely impossible for most families to send their children to school on the bus. This will HIGHLY increase the amount of traffic, making the parking lots and pick ups/drop offs unmanageable. At Davidson Road Elementary I already have to arrive 20 minutes early in order for my kids to not be late because of the line ups. It's a bad move environmentally by forcing many families to use separate vehicles. I live 26 km away from the school, there is no

	option but driving for us now.
	The price increase is ridiculous and outrageous. Saying it's equivalent to transit costs? I'm assuming a monthly transit bus pass enables you to use the bus whenever and how many times you want, and at weekends? If you are doing that then their pass should enable them to use the buses whenever they want. It's a ridiculous comparison. Also charging kids to get to school is also wrong. I think the government has it's priorities completely wrong. Giving Canadian kids a free education is a priority, not wasting millions elsewhere around the world, which is fine if things were in order here (education/elderly/vets etc). Pressure should be put on the government to cover this cost or more of it. A 100% increase in what was already considered a high charge for using a school bus is way too much.
	I understand that the cost needs to be changed and you state that the price is now in line with the public transit system in Kelowna - BUT there is a BIG difference. If our students could access the public system in Kelowna to get to school and have a monthly pass they could also use their pass to get to other places - mall, sports, doctors appointments etc., The School transportation Bus pass ONLY gets them to and from school - that is it - for the exact same price as a BC transit pass. I would argue that this is not value for money. There are many areas of Kelowna that are NOT serviced by BC transit and if they are the schedules do not align in with school hours...the further out of the centre the worse the service is - when was the last time ANY School district staff or trustee tried taking a bus in this town??? This increase in cost is now going to force many more vehicles on the road at drop off and pick up from school - in a road system that is totally inadequate.
	I DO NOT believe that the findings of the survey suggest that schools of “choice” (ie French Immersion), should not have access to bus service if that school happens to not be in their “English” catchment area - but is the closest French immersion school to their home. I can’t imagine that parents with their children in French immersion simply throw up their hands and say “we don’t deserve bus service because our kids are attending a French immersion PUBLIC school”. I completely disagree with this supposed survey finding vehemently. What exactly is the rationale for this?? I feel it’s incredibly punitive to exclude these students from access to bus service as though they are undeserving of it.
	I understand raising the amount per rider but a jump that high is to much! Our children's education is so important and making it financially harder for the family's to get the kids to school is hard for me to understand. The cost of a transit pass gets your transportation to and from where ever you want to go. It is also a right off for parents. The cost of the school bus takes them from point A to B and that's it!!! And all the school fees are not write offs for the parents! I have 3 children so this a big amount for a family to come up with when we are also paying out after school care and just the costs of raising a family in the Okanagan! My main point is this is not a transit pass comparing the price to that is completely unfair!!
	Hi There, While I understand the need to increase fees to cover the cost of bussing, equating the fee increase to a 10 month transit pass for students is unrealistic. The school bus only goes to and from school at specific times. There is no added benefit as there would be for transit passes where the student can take multiple trips to different locations throughout the day and on weekends. If the system could work with local transit to provide more services for the students, the price would be more comparable.

	To whom it may concern, My family and I moved into Lake country 3 weeks ago and I've yet to get a call back on getting my 4th grader on the bus to her school (I called 3 times) I'm only now hearing what a mess the transit system is here and to be honest I would have thought twice about moving to Lake Country had I known. Davidson rd elementary as you know is a huge mess getting into and out of before and after school. So I will gladly pay to get my child on the bus (it actually picks up just outside my house) to eliminate one more vehicle clogging up Davidson rd and adding more danger to the kids leaving the school on foot. Last week with the huge snow banks I saw a child fall off of the snow bank trying to get to her parents car and all I could think of is luckily no car was coming because it would have been fatal. More buses is a necessity for ensuring the safety of the kids. Thank you for providing this portal for feedback, hopefully my concern will be heard. Regards, Jenn
	The recommended fees of \$450/student for bussing are far too high. Doubling the cost, would make this not affordable for many families. For those that are low and middle income, we can't afford to purchase city bus passes for our children, so the school bus was a better and safer option. This is another barrier for families who cannot drive their children to school, if the school is too far to walk. West Kelowna is especially problematic for distances to schools and city bus transportation. A payment plan for bussing fees is greatly needed. Currently the only way fees can be paid is by credit card or in person at the sd23 office. Neither of these options are viable for low income families who don't own a credit card and have to leave work during business hours to pay for fees.
	Increasing bussing fares is understandable, but it seems quite high. However, bus drivers need to check the students' bus passes, especially at the secondary level. There are many kids who DO NOT have a bus pass. In Black Mountain alone, going to both SMS and RSS, there are MANY kids that just get on, not necessarily even at their own area stop, that don't have passes. Further, they need to go back to the system of having a photo card bus pass like they used to do, not a paper one, so this doesnt happen. Perhaps they need to have a checklist of who is getting on, but they need to start checking consistently. It isn't fair that they have the same right to ride the bus as those of us that pay.
	Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The decrease for middle school is a good idea, however I believe it should also be the same as elementary school students (especially given the model in Kelowna would have some of these students at middle school still In an elementary school in other districts). Further, how will topography be address? In our own personal circumstance - upper canyon? Many homes are 3-3.38km away and currently all of these kids ride the bus as courtesy riders. (The 2.5 km hill, lack of snow removal in the winter and crossing a 4 lane road make school walks very difficult) Can a multiplier be used to add km so these kids be included in the regular bussing versus having to wait to find out. We rely heavily on the bussing in our neighbourhood, there is no public transport. In addition the bussing adds community to our neighbourhood. Thank you for listening to our feedback.
	Why do other communities not pay for bussing but Kelowna has to pay so much?? These prices are ridiculous. We are funding the entire Okanagan.
	Hello, I appreciate the work that has been done to consult the public on transportation, however I'm concerned with how some of the findings have been interpreted with regards to the proposed bussing fee increase. Apparently, 78% of respondents said they would support an increase to bussing fees. I was one of those 78%. I don't recall the survey specifying how much the fee increase could be. Most respondents likely expected this meant a modest increase, not a doubling. Had the survey question specified that the increase could be a doubling of current fees, then I suspect the responses would have been very different. It has been argued that \$450 brings the fees in line with the public transit fees. The problem with this argument is that the public

transit pass also allows students to use transportation to other places outside of school routes and times therefore providing much better value for the money. I would argue that the City of Kelowna should look at providing a public school bus pass at a reduced rate for students who need to use public transit only to get to and from school.

The original transit survey asked us to rank our priorities for cutting, but there were only a few options - ie. support of students with special needs, school maintenance, student supports etc... It was impossible to rank these areas as they are all vital. Are there other options that didn't appear on the ranking - such as administrative costs? Are there any cuts that could be considered there before anything that effects students, working conditions, or facilities? For example, I wonder what the TOC costs are for every superintendent's meeting? Obviously, these meetings are very important, but how would they rank in importance against all the other things that are also very important? Are there ways to run these meetings that could save on TOC costs? This is a random example, but my point is that the areas that we were required to rank on the survey were limited and as you know, every cut requires an impossible decision.

One way to increase transit revenues is simply to ensure that those who ride the bus have paid! My children have never been asked to show their bus pass and I know of one student who been riding their bus without a pass for the entire year. Students should be required to show their bus passes to the bus drivers at the beginning of the year until the bus driver can recognize the legitimate riders. Before doubling the bussing fees, please look at ways to ensure those who ride are paying their share. Checking bus passes is a simple first step.

It is not always an option to live within walking distance of a school, and those who require bussing should not have to experience financial strain because of where they live. Our income is such that a \$900 bussing fee for our 2 children would amount to about 1.25% of our yearly family income. We have a decent income, but we still have to think of how every dollar is used. A \$450 fee per student is a very heavy burden for most families - especially those with more than one child. Please remember this when you make your decision.

	This a an unreasonable rate increase in one year! I have two children so doubling my fees from 450\$ to 900\$ is significant for me. I live 10.2 km away from KSS where my children attend and there is no public transport that comes anywhere near my house. They have always qualified for busing and this unfortunately NOT Optional fro me!!
	Hi, in regards to fee increases for bus service. An increase may be warranted, but doubling the charge is ridiculous. I'm fortunate only have one child left in the school system How is it reasonable for those parents with 2 children to pay \$900/year?
	It is great to see consideration are given to family situations when setting policy on fees, especially those under the low income thresholds. There will be many families not under the low income threshold, but not earning a living wage (For the Central Okanagan it is approximately ~\$20 per hour for each parent), where it will be quite difficult to afford bussing or transit fees. Consider a scale system, or increase the low income threshold to an living wage. Also consider single parent households, as these households are more at risk. More information on a living wage can be found here: http://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/
	I support all recommendations outlined in the proposal. The fee increase is substantial, however greatly preferable to decreased services. Bussing is a necessity for many families.
	Thank-you again for your teams work on this!! It matters!! The decreases in distance very accurately reflect the need to have our young children safe and it helps support schools struggling with massive parking and drop off / pickup issues which create further

	safety concerns (not to mention the environmental impact). The significant fee increase is perhaps too much! Just a few years ago this district didn't charge any fee to eligible riders. So there has been an increase to fees in recent years...a fee is okay and very necessary...so perhaps a fee that would hold district cost at the same 3.1 million for the coming year would be a good balance...we all win with increased services that better reflect the abilities of young children, address the need to have less traffic at schools and with a moderate increase in fees you will have the majorities support. I look forward to hearing about more options for a moderate increase next week :) Just a friendly note for consideration and I certainly don't want to sound negative but when our representatives continue to rely on the fall back "we don't have to provide this service" the whole SD23 loses...it is the truth but sounds caddy and of all the conversations I have heard this comment seems to be the one that creates the most angst and dislike for the process...just some honest feedback for consideration...unless SD23 is seriously considering this option perhaps it should be set aside as a topic.
	Hello. I am a parent of 3 kids who will require busing in September 2020 . I am very, very concerned that families will find the proposed fee increase to be just too much to handle. We are a middle income family that already struggled with the fees as they were this year. I am afraid that we will not qualify under the "low income threshold" and am not sure what to do. Already there are multiple families in my enghbourhood who are going to be taking their kids off of the bus because it is not affordable, which means there will be a significant increase in the number of cars driving their kids to school. We live in Ellison and our area is not serviced by public transit in any meaningful way, so there really is no other option. Please reconsider this huge increase. Thank you so much.
	I have lived and owned my house in oyama for 18 years. I have three children. Our first we wanted to go to peter greer no particular reason other then just being a bit bigger then oyama school and like many the uniforms and traditional part kinda scared us off at first. I ended up pregnant with my second and I always saw the bus going by here. I decided to call to get a seat (which was totally free still) I was told that we were to close to peter greer to get a bus but oyama had one.?!? Super confused super crazy ok. My husband and I talked and decided it might be best and just stick to oyama. We live on the top of a hill with zero lights or sidewalks let alone a path. I let it go it was my privilege really. By the time I had my youngest I was now paying for the bus at \$110 per and if late on registering \$130 per I thought it was kinda crazy but factored in winter conditions and how much I hate to drive plus gas etc. Ok fair enough I will pay. It has only gone up and up though ever year. I switched schools again and drove to peter greer that's too close to us. Watched many times a school bus struggle to get up our hill in the winter but whatever. I now have my oldest at gess and because of our distance it's a free trip to the only high school here! I have two to drive for a bit more till yep they are at gess as well. Home free no drop off or pick up and a bus at my front door to actually help us parents not only maybe work a bit more without worry but be great full for this treat. With our distance you here and getting my kids to school, Such a great relief and help plus the kids love the bus. With out pretty much any notice we went from having help in our situation to now being told (we'll me with 3 kids) we have to pay. I'm looking at almost \$900 dollars for my kids. I will be driving now again. The school roads, traffic, parking will be way worse now and not even by law will be able to keep up. I believe your money you ask for should be going to your already problem of traffic and parking at all schools and our kids walking home safely. Not increasing something that is suppose to be a safety net and help reduce these things. You have taken full advantage of absolutely everything you can and still have not actually solved anything either. Shame on you I expected more. If you can give 3 solid reasons why like solid and they make sense then perhaps I may reconsider but I doubt it. It's just the money. You also realize you have even it made it impossible for lower income families kids to even get to school now with these prices?!
	I support many of the recommendations made. However, I am concerned about the fee increase. It or a very substantial increase that I fear many families who have no other option than to bus due to work schedules etc, will be forced to pay. I would support a slight increase in fees, however double the current price seems ridiculous. The students who will end up buying. City bus pass then have the freedom to use that bus system anytime of day to many locations in town. Those who pay for the school bus pass receive two rides a day to two specified locations (bus stop and school). I hope that there is some middle ground that can be found and that the bus fees do not increase as much as proposed. Thank you

	Overall the recommendations are positive, including earlier registration. The concern is the substantial fee increase, this could have huge economic and environmental impact as parents may choose to drive students or have to decline work opportunities due to prohibitive costs.
	My two children currently ride the bus but I don't think we'll be able to afford the price increase from \$175 to \$450 per child. An increase of 257% seems very unreasonable to me.
	The fee increase is substantial and will make bussing unaffordable for many families. I have three kids (soon 4) who ride the bus and the new fees will be close to impossible for us to afford. I support an increase as I know it's necessary, but doubling the fees is quite outrageous. I have heard the same concern from almost everyone I have spoken too about this issue.
	Many of the criteria make sense to me, but the fee increase , which I did write should be considered, is ridiculously high. I have four kids in school and to only have a fee reduction of 50% for the 3 and 4th when the fees are going to double is crazy. I also think the original fee increase is way too high, I agree we can possibly afford a bit more for busing but doubling the amount is beyond unreasonable, Especially when bussing is our only option with unsafe roads to walk on in our community for elementary aged children. This MUST be re assessed.
	While the increase in eligibility and service is a huge step in the right direction for families, the proposed fee increase is too high. It's just not affordable and will once again leave many in the lurch trying to get their kids safely to school. Many parents will now opt to drive their kids which creates safety concerns in many school parking lots/streets which were NOT designed to handle the amount of traffic they now recieve.
	I feel that a slight increase would be acceptable but a 100% increase is not. You may find people turning away and then you will end up with the same costs. Less students and more buses doesn't make sense. You wouldn't save money. Trying to compare the public system to the district isn't a fair comparison. The public system you can take throughout the city and different times. You can't compare a straight direction of travel to and from the school. Cutting bussing from the school to a sports event makes more sense or a smaller bus. My kids have taken the bus to a school sport. Maybe 20 students on the bus then on the way back to the school maybe 5 students. That doesn't make sense at all. Also topography should be taken into consideration as my kids would have a 40 min walk and they would be walking up a mountain. This should be considered with the distance.
	Thank you for working on this issue for our community. We need busing for families to manage work and home and most importantly get our kids to school safely. Please do all you can to address the cost issue. It is prohibitive to many families at this time.
	1 - agree with the deadline to register 2 - agree with the eligibility limit changes - 3 - however I think the high fee increase should not apply to current registered students that fall in the current eligibility limits and who require transportation next year. The need for the changes are for most kids in the new limits or outside limits. We feel much safer that my grade 10 student is on a school bus and we value the transportation; I wouldn't want him on the public transit. At the end of the day we want reliable safe transportation for our kids; it comes at a price however, the increase seems really high.
	Lake country SD Transportation Taxpayers pay for public education, the government then pays school districts an amount per child, it makes no sense that because there seems to be a higher need for transportation services, that the cost be doubled.. Based on the allowance per child, it should remain the same cost for school bus transportation. Secondly, with the higher costs of gas to account for, perhaps budgets in general need to be reassessed. Lastly, the meetings for this issue should be held in lake country if you want more people to attend. I personally cannot commute to kelowna during the week due to prior commitments and extracurriculars for my kids, it's a lake country issue and it should be handled in lake country. Thank you for your time.



I understand there needs to be a fee increase to accommodate the financial cost but do not agree that it's should double. I think \$100 extra per student would create a lot more money than the current bus fees but would still remain affordable for many . Some people may not require/ quialitfy assistance but \$450 is still a lot of money per child to pay and will be a burden for many middle class people as well.