

## Leigh Glancie

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**From:** Leigh Glancie  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:10 AM  
**To:** Leigh Glancie  
**Subject:** FW: Courtesy rider policy

**From:** Tim Dunford <[tdunford@saanichschools.ca](mailto:tdunford@saanichschools.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2023 3:35:38 PM  
**To:** Megan Lappi <[meganlappi@gmail.com](mailto:meganlappi@gmail.com)>; Elsie Mcmurphy <[emcmurphy@saanichschools.ca](mailto:emcmurphy@saanichschools.ca)>; Keven Elder <[kelder@saanichschools.ca](mailto:kelder@saanichschools.ca)>; Susan Hickman <[shickman@saanichschools.ca](mailto:shickman@saanichschools.ca)>; Nola Silzer <[nsilzer@saanichschools.ca](mailto:nsilzer@saanichschools.ca)>; Joyce Vandall <[jvandall@saanichschools.ca](mailto:jvandall@saanichschools.ca)>; Teri Vanwell <[tvanwell@saanichschools.ca](mailto:tvanwell@saanichschools.ca)>  
**Cc:** Dave Eberwein <[deberwein@saanichschools.ca](mailto:deberwein@saanichschools.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Courtesy rider policy

Dear Ms. Lappi,

I acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your email of August 21, 2023 addressed to the Board of Education trustees. It will be placed on the agenda as Board Correspondence for our September Board meeting and considered at that time.

TIMOTHY DUNFORD

*Board Chair, Saanich Schools*

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**From:** Megan Lappi <[meganlappi@gmail.com](mailto:meganlappi@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2023 10:00:03 AM  
**To:** Tim Dunford <[tdunford@saanichschools.ca](mailto:tdunford@saanichschools.ca)>; Elsie Mcmurphy <[emcmurphy@saanichschools.ca](mailto:emcmurphy@saanichschools.ca)>; Keven Elder <[kelder@saanichschools.ca](mailto:kelder@saanichschools.ca)>; Susan Hickman <[shickman@saanichschools.ca](mailto:shickman@saanichschools.ca)>; Nola Silzer <[nsilzer@saanichschools.ca](mailto:nsilzer@saanichschools.ca)>; Joyce Vandall <[jvandall@saanichschools.ca](mailto:jvandall@saanichschools.ca)>; Teri Vanwell <[tvanwell@saanichschools.ca](mailto:tvanwell@saanichschools.ca)>  
**Cc:** Dave Eberwein <[deberwein@saanichschools.ca](mailto:deberwein@saanichschools.ca)>  
**Subject:** Courtesy rider policy

Dear School Trustee,

I am writing to share our dismay about receiving the below email about "pending" transportation for our son from Deep Cove to Bayside for French immersion resulting from the "courtesy rider" policy being applied to French immersion students.

We implore you to make changes to district policies so we are not forced to make a difficult choice between French immersion and transportation. Canada is a bilingual country and our kids, regardless of where they live, should not be penalized for wanting to become proficient in both of our country's official languages.

As there is no French immersion available in our "home school" (North Saanich Middle School), we expected that kids living in our part of the district would have the same access to French immersion as students who live closer to Bayside.

It should not be a surprise to hear that not having access to bus service to school will create undue hardship on families and limit our kids' access to French immersion.

There are no tenable public bus options available for us to turn to, which will result in a significant time commitment for parents driving to and from school, in addition to the environmental impact of having so many extra drivers on the road, even if we all manage to carpool.

We are also aware of a number of impacted families who may be forced to change schools due to the lack of bus service, which could impact enrollment at Bayside and North Saanich Middle School.

If the district budget is a factor, we (and many other parents) are willing to pay for this service and should be given the opportunity to do so.

Finally, I think it's important to note that we completed the district transportation survey last year. However, we were not aware this situation would arise and would have provided much different answers had we known. I am aware that a proposal based on the transportation survey will be presented to the board this year and it's important for you as a trustee to read the results with an understanding of the impact of the "courtesy rider" policy on a significant number of families seeking to access French immersion across the district, especially if a solution to this issue cannot be found.

I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully  
Megan Lappi

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**Transportation** <[transportation@saanichschools.ca](mailto:transportation@saanichschools.ca)> Fri, Jul 28, 2:55 PM

Good afternoon,

You are receiving this email because a registration application for Bus Service was received from this email address.

Your application for School Bus Service is **PENDING** as a *COURTESY RIDER*. Courtesy Riders will be confirmed if there is space by email after October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

#### Registered Bus Riders

1. The Transportation Manager will determine whether or not bus service will be provided for any applicant. Once an application for bus service has been approved, the student is considered to be a registered rider. Applications for bus service will be considered in the following order:
  - a. Students attending their home school and living outside walk limits.
  - b. Students attending District programs.
  - c. **Students attending school of choice (courtesy riders). Courtesy riders will be prioritized on a furthest distance basis and ridership will not be confirmed until after October 1, when routes and loads are established.**
2. Applications for bus service received after May 31 will be considered only if there is room on existing routes. (registration was extended till mid-June)
3. Only registered riders may use the bus service.
4. Riders will be issued bus passes and will be required to produce them when getting on and off the bus.

We have a larger count of student riders this year that have registered in their school catchment and outside of the walking catchment. We have to look at each bus for space and this will take some time to do. We are working on this and hope to update you further in late August. We have received many email requests and we're doing the best to respond to them. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Hope you are enjoying your summer.

Thank you,

**TRANSPORTATION**

*Saanich Schools*

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