

**Attachment 3**  
**North Zone Transportation Policy Review Open House**  
**North Saanich Middle School**  
**Thursday, October 5, 2023**

There were 10 people who filled in the sign-in sheet (excluding Trustees and district staff).

**Table Discussion Feedback**

**Do the proposed transportation policy amendments reflect the key concerns identified to date and the direction from the Policy Committee?**

- The policy revisions reflect the survey feedback that was gathered but they don't reflect concerns that arose over the summer for French immersion students not being given equal ridership priority to bus registration.
- No, because all students do not have equal access to bus service (if attending a district program).
- I believe that people need to know the facts ahead of choosing school locations/special programs. If parents knew that they wouldn't receive bus services, then might re-think to use catchment schools.
- Are the "vulnerable students" in the direction the students with exceptional transportation needs in draft policy? If not, where are they? Concerns met: lowers K-5 walk limits, encourages timely registration, focus route. Design on optimizing service for those entitled, clarifies how courtesy riders are defined.
- Other than the walking limit for elementary students.

**Is there anything else the Policy Committee should consider in its review of the transportation policy?**

- Please include a policy consideration for students enrolled in programs that receive funding (i.e., federal or otherwise) supporting these programs. That is, transportation is a finite resource which bears an expense; therefore programs where additional funding is provided should qualify for transportation differently than those which do not.
- The policy revisions do not address the issue of French Immersion students not being given equal access to bus ridership priority as their English program counterparts. This was not an issue at the time of the bus survey last winter and it needs to be incorporated into the current policy revisions. It should not be written into policy that some students have greater access than others, despite the financial implications related to the change.
- Having a procedure for families to withdraw if they no longer need the service.
- Registration fees set barrier for access.
- I feel like Deep Cove immersion is my regular school as it is my catchment. I don't think we should be isolated because I couldn't send my kids to our closest school (Sidney) which is more convenient.
- Differentiation of active transportation among age groups, considering the required involvement of parents/caregivers for younger children. For ghost riders, there should be an

automated follow-up that allows a parent to easily unregister. It should be a simple link within the email to make it easy.

## **Survey Feedback**

**Do the proposed transportation policy amendments reflect the key concerns identified to date and the direction from the Policy Committee?**

Response 1

Possibly

Response 2

Mostly yes

**Is there anything else the Policy Committee should consider in its review of the Transportation Policy?**

Response 1

The fees will stop some families who need transport from registering. If buses are full, more buses are needed. Perhaps French Immersion and other programs should pay a fee, not catchment students. Have better communication with families and a process in place for withdrawal.

Response 2

A clearer definition of “active transportation” and what means exactly within the overall transportation policy. In theory its great if families could walk or bike their kids to school but this doesn’t fit well with the modern family. Most families/caregivers drive or drop off at the bus stop as they are rushing to get to work. Most don’t have the luxury of the time it takes to walk/bike their kids to school & back and can’t send their elementary school+ kids solo on busy roads.