

FW: Letter in support of the Proposed Amendments to Policy 21

Saanich Schools Communication <Communication@saanichschools.ca>

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To: Dave Eberwein <deberwein@saanichschools.ca>; Jason Reid <jreid@saanichschools.ca>

From: Ronya Lake <ronyagarden@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 3, 2023 2:11 PM

To: Saanich Schools Communication <Communication@saanichschools.ca>

Subject: Letter in support of the Proposed Amendments to Policy 21

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Dear Saanich Schools & Dave Eberwein,

I regret that I was unable to attend the open house transportation meeting about the Proposed Amendments to Policy 21, I am writing to let you know that

I am strongly in favour of these changes. My daughter currently attends Cordova Bay Elementary, and takes the bus to school. The changes would mean that she could also take the bus home from school.

I work from home, and I start my work day at 4am. I then take a break from 7am to 8:20am to get my daughter ready for her day, and wait for the school bus. I finish my work day at 2:00pm so that I can arrive at the school to pick her up at 2:30pm. School gets out at 2:47pm but I need to arrive early because of limited parking at the school.

The changes proposed would extend my work day by about an hour, allowing me to wake up at 5am instead of at 4am to start my work day.

There is very limited parking at our school, and so most of the parents arrive 20 - 30 minutes early, to ensure that they can get a parking spot.

The proposed changes would free up parking spots at Cordova Bay Elementary, meaning that the parents and guardians who are picking up their children wouldn't have to arrive so early.

As the task of dropping off and picking up kids from schools still predominantly falls on women, I can imagine that this would have a similar impact on the schedules of many other mothers in my community. I have seen other mothers taking meetings on their phones while they sit and wait in their cars at pick up, or trying to work on laptops and phones in the parking area while they wait to pick up their children. The challenge of trying to fit a full time job into about 5 hours of time is one that we all manage differently, but this proposed change would ease the pressure for so many parents.

From my child's perspective, she is very keen to continue to find ways to reduce her carbon footprint, and taking the bus is something she is very proud to do.

From a community perspective, the bus rides are a chance for children to socialize with kids who are older or younger from their neighbourhood, and to build connections and friendships outside of their class groups.

Thank you kindly,

I look forward to seeing the bus system expand to include transportation home from Cordova Bay school,

Ronya Lake (Helena's Mum)
545 Brookleigh Rd

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Ronya Lake

<https://linktr.ee/Ronyalake>

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