
feedback on bus fee

From Philipp & Anna Svehla <philannasvehla@yahoo.ca>

Date Fri 2026-03-06 9:56 AM

To Jason Reid <jreid@saanichschools.ca>

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To Whom it May concern, thank you for extending the response time beyond March 1st.

On March 2nd, the switch to permanent Daylight Savings Time was announced in BC. At the peak of Winter, the sun will rise at 9:05, which means that children will be travelling to school in the dark. Because we live in a rural area, many main streets do not have street lights. One example in my area is Wallace Dr from Saanichton to Stelly's x rd. This is a main artery, without a side-walk, that kids from Saanichton need to travel to get to either Bayside or Stelly's schools.

Our family lives in Saanichton and we have 4 children. The fee is prohibitive for our family, so our children would need to walk or ride their bikes. I'm guessing that we are also about to have an increase of children and youth (not just our family) trying to make their way on foot/bike to schools, not just from Saanichton, but many other areas. It is unfortunate that you are discussing removing the option of bus service for many, when it is about to become more unsafe for children to make their own way to school.

Has the lack of infrastructure and safety of children making it to school been discussed, especially in the context of absolute darkness at 8am?

I was also wondering if the possibility of subsidizing the public transit has been discussed? Although this is not ideal for our younger kids, with the upcoming dark mornings, it is looking like the safer alternative for those that are on a public bus route, even for the young children (for those who cannot afford the fee).

My final thought is around access to education, as I know that there are families who live too far away to walk/ride, and who cannot afford such a high fee for the bus. I do not believe that access to education should be a privilege, and yet by making the cost so high, it does become that. I believe that the fee should be income tested so that lower income families do not find the fee prohibitive to accessing education.

Thank you for your time,

Anna Svehla

School bus fee

From Elan Fritz <elanfritz@hotmail.com>
Date Sat 2026-03-07 5:06 PM
To Jason Reid <jreid@saanichschools.ca>

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Hello

A quick note about the proposed school bus fee.
The opportunity for our child to take the bus to school helps support for our two parent working home.
In addition, we recognize that we avoid some fuel costs by not driving her.

Therefore, we support some kind of fee structure in order to maintain this service in rural Saanich.

Kind regards
Elan

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Bus fees

From Breanna Chandler <brechandler11@gmail.com>

Date Mon 2026-03-09 10:30 AM

To Jason Reid <jreid@saanichschools.ca>

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Good morning,

I've now read the survey and feedback briefing not for the Saanich board and am extremely disappointed to see that the proposal isn't changing.

32 emails, 600 surveys plus the staff time to review and process (in spite of leveraging copilot, this still takes time).

Results showed overwhelming opposition and even solutions offered to meet in the middle somewhere and yet there was no change of direction from the initial proposed fees.

While I fully expected the district to say 'let's start with 400 and then post feedback settle on only 2 or 300 so the people feel like they won' ... this is even worse.

Further I see nothing that considers riders only using the bus part time? My daughter can only take the bus half time due entirely to out of hours classes (band and choir), I suspect many athletes would be in the same boat. So the school penalizes them for taking extra school programming. Lovely.

The email showing the admin cost per student variances across the 3 greater Victoria districts looks very poorly in SD63 at nearly a doubling of cost. And even more so is the contingency discrepancy. Wow.

Good to know that filling out the surveys was a waste of time for all 600+ people that completed them as the intent was to proceed as initially intended.

Breanna

School bus fee increase - for March 11 Board of Education meeting

From Anna Morton <annaleemorton@gmail.com>

Date Mon 2026-03-09 2:53 PM

To Jason Reid <jreid@saanichschools.ca>

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Attn: Board of Education

I am concerned about the staggering increase in bus fees for the upcoming school year. A 1,600% increase per rider is a hardship for many families and puts them in a tricky financial situation, particularly in the current economic climate.

With the recent switch to permanent Daylight Savings Time in BC, winter mornings will now be much darker. Children that would normally take the bus, whose families are now looking at alternative cost-saving modes of transportation, will be walking or riding their bikes in the dark. SD 63 is not an entirely urban school district. Many of these routes to school have poor lighting and lack bike lanes and proper sidewalks.

There is an understandable need to look at budget pressures, but a less dramatic increase would be more appropriate. There were no fees when my children started taking the bus two years ago, and we were happy to pay the increase to \$25/child. Surely budget constraints have not been so unpredictable that this could not have been planned for.

The rationale behind charging bus fees is sound. If there is no personal financial impact, families will sign their children up and not use the service, taking away potential seats from those that need it more. Raising the price to \$50/child would not be entirely unreasonable. But to \$400? I cannot think of any other service that could implement that kind of cost increase.

Safe access to schools is important and this astronomical fee increase is a barrier.

Thank you,

Anna Morton