



## Cowichan Valley School District

### SPECIAL OPEN BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 11, 2016

Held at 4:00 pm in the Board Room  
2557 Beverly Street, Duncan, B.C.

### AGENDA

Page

**1. Call to Order**

We respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people.

**2. Waiver of 48 Hours Notice of Special Meeting**

*"That the Board of Education waives the requirement to provide 48 advance hours notice of the Special Open Meeting of August 11, 2016."*

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

a. Motion to Adopt Agenda

*"That the Board of Education adopts the agenda of the August 11, 2016 Special Open Board Meeting."*

**4. Secretary - Treasurer**

**4.1. For Board Action**

a. Student Transportation Fund

2-9

*"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) submits a plan to the Ministry of Education to access student transportation funds in the amount of \$283,524 that will eliminate the fees for in-catchment bus riders effective for the 2016/2017 school year."*

**5. Adjournment**

a. Motion to Adjourn

*"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."*

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Cowichan Valley School District

## BRIEFING NOTE

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**Date of Report:** August 10, 2016

**Prepared for:** The Board of Education for **Decision** for the August 11, 2016 Special Open Board Meeting

**Subject:** Student Transportation Fund

### **Background:**

The District underwent a significant restructuring consultation process during the preparation of the 2013/2014 Annual Budget. At the May 15, 2013 Open Board Meeting the Secretary-Treasurer provided information on how transportation fees would be instituted for students utilizing the district's busing. These recommendations were adopted by the Official Trustee formally through the revision of Policy 2600 – School District Transportation Services on June 19, 2013. Fees for transportation services were introduced effective September 2013. Fees were not differentiated between schools of choice, out-of-catchment, International students or in-catchment riders.

### **Discussion:**

On August 10, 2016 the Ministry of Education announced a Supplemental Transportation Allocation that districts could apply for. The Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) will be allocated \$283,524 in ongoing funding upon approval of a plan, by the Ministry of Education, that outlines how the district will use the funding to boost transportation services for students and families. After discussions with the Ministry of Education it is understood that the intent of the grant is to provide our district with funding that will offset the fees currently being charged to in-catchment or otherwise eligible riders. The funding is not intended to offset fees that currently are being charged to out-of-catchment riders, International students or programs of choice such as French Immersion. Boards are still able to charge transportation fees for those students.

Upon approval of the plan by the Ministry of Education the Board will need to update Policy 2600 – School District Transportation Services to remove in-catchment riders from the fee schedule. The District's transportation services are subject to review this Fall with recommendations on service levels and fee structures expected prior to the 2017/2018 Annual Budget process.

We estimate that the district's allocation of \$283,524 will provide sufficient funding to offset the fees that would have been collected for in-catchment riders for the 2016/2017 school year. If the Board adopts the recommendation below the district will begin to process refunds to any families now covered by the Student Transportation Fund that have already paid their fees for the year.

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**Recommendation:**

*"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) submits a plan to the Ministry of Education to access student transportation funds in the amount of \$283,524 that will eliminate the fees for in-catchment bus riders effective for the 2016/2017 school year"*

**Prepared by:**



Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer

**Reviewed by:**



Rod Allen, Superintendent

Date signed: August 10, 2016

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2016EDUC0076-001429  
Aug. 10, 2016

Ministry of Education

### **Almost \$15 million will make transportation more affordable and accessible for B.C. families**

DAWSON CREEK – Students and families throughout B.C. will soon have access to expanded and more affordable transportation options thanks to \$14.7 million, under the new Student Transportation Fund.

Education Minister Mike Bernier made the announcement with school district officials today at the Dawson Creek school board office.

School districts can apply for the funding to help parents with transportation costs and services, whether they use the usual yellow bus program or work with local transit operators.

The handful of districts that currently charge families a transportation fee for a student's local or catchment area school must eliminate those fees to be eligible for the funding. All districts need to use the funding for transportation services to be eligible.

Funding can also be used in a variety of ways, including:

- improving service by adding new or amended routes;
- improving access to local transit services;
- providing accessible services for students with disabilities;
- reducing ride times;
- boosting student safety by relocating bus stops and improving bus supervision; and,
- funding existing transportation services and investing the savings in enhanced student services.

To be eligible for funding, districts must submit a plan to the Ministry of Education by Sept. 30, 2016, outlining how they will use the funding to boost transportation services for students and families. Districts will hear back shortly after they submit their applications on how much funding they will receive.

The amount of funding a district is eligible for is based on a formula tied to the Ministry of Education's student location factor, which is used to determine the rural makeup of a school district. Districts will also be required to report back on the outcomes and the benefits they achieved as a result of the funding.

As a result of B.C.'s strong economic growth and fiscal discipline, government is able to make key investments like the Student Transportation Fund to improve the lives of British Columbians.

#### **Quotes:**

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**Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –**

“As a parent in a rural community, I know about the challenges of getting kids to school on time and then getting them home at the end of the day. This funding will help districts provide better bus and transportation services at lower costs to parents.

“This past June, government returned \$25 million in administrative savings to districts – and many of them had found those savings in their transportation money. With close to \$15 million more funding flowing to districts parents will see districts enhancing services and eliminating fees.”

**Pat Pimm, MLA for Peace River North –**

“I am extremely pleased that Minister Bernier and the ministry have found a way to fund busing for the constituents in my riding. This is an issue that I have been working very hard on and I am extremely pleased we have got it over the goal line.”

**John Bird, president of BCCPAC –**

“We welcome today’s announcement that the province is stepping up to eliminate fees and boost transportation services. It is an acknowledgement that parents should not be financially responsible for transportation and addresses some of the inequities faced by families living in suburban and rural areas.”

**Richard Powell, board vice chair, Peace River South School District –**

“We’re pleased that the minister was able to change the way transportation is funded because it means we can operate our bus systems more efficiently and in ways that better support rural students in the public school system.”

**Ida Campbell, board chair, Peace River North School District –**

“We’ve been working on this issue for a long time and this is great news for parents. Transportation is vitally important in a rural area like ours and we are excited to be able to eliminate fees for busing thanks to this money from the provincial government.”

**Quick Facts:**

- The Student Transportation Fund builds on government’s recent investments to further strengthen B.C.’s education system and support student learning, including:
  - \$25 million of administrative savings returned to school districts to invest in students;
  - \$2 million Rural Education Enhancement Fund to help keep schools open;
  - \$28 million to ensure enrolment increases and labour settlements are covered; and,
  - \$6 million to train teachers on coding and new curriculum and to buy computers.

A backgrounder follows.

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**Media Contact:**

Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
Ministry of Education  
250 356-5963

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## BACKGROUNDER

For Immediate Release  
 2016EDUC0076-001429  
 Aug. 10, 2016

Ministry of Education

### **New Student Transportation Fund to benefit parents and students**

The Province is investing almost \$15 million under the new Student Transportation Fund to make school transportation more affordable and accessible for B.C. families and students.

All school districts are encouraged to apply for the funding. To be eligible for funding, districts must submit a plan to the Ministry of Education by Sept. 30, 2016, outlining how they will use the funding to boost transportation services for students and families.

Districts are eligible for up to the following amounts:

- 5 Southeast Kootenay – \$361,459
- 6 Rocky Mountain – \$369,399
- 8 Kootenay Lake – \$419,602
- 10 Arrow Lakes – \$42,675
- 19 Revelstoke – \$49,847
- 20 Kootenay-Columbia – \$242,977
- 22 Vernon – \$361,094
- 23 Central Okanagan – \$600,000
- 27 Cariboo-Chilcotin – \$739,024
- 28 Quesnel – \$274,209
- 33 Chilliwack – \$329,456
- 34 Abbotsford – \$253,969
- 35 Langley – \$260,000
- 36 Surrey – \$72,999
- 37 Delta – \$41,933
- 38 Richmond – \$21,608
- 39 Vancouver – \$53,423
- 40 New Westminster – \$6,073
- 41 Burnaby – \$24,841
- 42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows – \$185,990
- 43 Coquitlam – \$81,641
- 44 North Vancouver – \$40,566
- 45 West Vancouver – \$84,722
- 46 Sunshine Coast – \$380,465
- 47 Powell River – \$91,754
- 48 Sea to Sky – \$265,534
- 49 Central Coast – \$80,277
- 50 Haida Gwaii – \$149,851
- 51 Boundary – \$153,588

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- 52 Prince Rupert – \$117,597
- 53 Okanagan Similkameen – \$209,099
- 54 Bulkley Valley – \$163,737
- 57 Prince George – \$687,663
- 58 Nicola-Similkameen – \$170,292
- 59 Peace River South – \$441,458
- 60 Peace River North – \$425,785
- 61 Greater Victoria – 20,027
- 62 Sooke – \$358,365
- 63 Saanich – \$280,000
- 64 Gulf Islands –\$328,264
- 67 Okanagan Skaha – \$167,035
- 68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith – \$244,630
- 69 Qualicum – \$426,341
- 70 Alberni – \$71,717
- 71 Comox Valley – \$421,375
- 72 Campbell River – \$316,860
- 73 Kamloops/Thompson – \$666,817
- 74 Gold Trail – \$366,932
- 75 Mission – \$188,900
- 78 Fraser-Cascade – \$184,576
- 79 Cowichan Valley – \$283,524
- 81 Fort Nelson – \$32,744
- 82 Coast Mountains – \$557,786
- 83 North Okanagan-Shuswap – \$561,925
- 84 Vancouver Island West – \$57,593
- 85 Vancouver Island North – \$118,179
- 87 Stikine – \$51,181
- 91 Nechako Lakes – \$503,247
- 92 Nisga'a – \$130,091
- 93 Conseil scolaire francophone – \$150,415

**Media Contact:**

Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
Ministry of Education  
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Supplemental Transportation Allocation to School Districts

School District	District Allocation
5 Southeast Kootenay	361,459
6 Rocky Mountain	369,399
8 Kootenay Lake	419,602
10 Arrow Lakes	42,675
19 Revelstoke	49,847
20 Kootenay-Columbia	242,977
22 Vernon	361,094
23 Central Okanagan	600,000
27 Cariboo-Chilcotin	739,024
28 Quesnel	274,209
33 Chilliwack	329,456
34 Abbotsford	253,969
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36 Surrey	72,999
37 Delta	41,933
38 Richmond	21,608
39 Vancouver	53,423
40 New Westminster	6,073
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42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	185,990
43 Coquitlam	81,641
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51 Boundary	153,588
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53 Okanagan Similkameen	209,099
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63 Saanich	280,000
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67 Okanagan Skaha	167,035
68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith	244,630
69 Qualicum	426,341
70 Alberni	71,717
71 Comox Valley	421,375
72 Campbell River	316,860
73 Kamloops/Thompson	666,817
74 Gold Trail	366,932
75 Mission	188,900
78 Fraser-Cascade	184,576
79 Cowichan Valley	283,524
81 Fort Nelson	32,744
82 Coast Mountains	557,786
83 North Okanagan-Shuswap	561,925
84 Vancouver Island West	57,593
85 Vancouver Island North	118,179
87 Stikine	51,181
91 Nechako Lakes	503,247
92 Nisga'a	130,091
93 Conseil scolaire francophone	150,415
Provincial Totals	14,743,131

Updated August 8, 2016