

Written Submission to the Board of Education
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Subject: School bus for Websters

My daughter is in grade 4 at Websters and we rely on the bus as a means to get her home and some days to school. I am not alone. Many of her good friends are on buses as well.

We live by SRT and walking is not a safe option - distance, wild animals, personal safety. As well, public transportation isn't a safe option as she would have to transfer buses in the downtown core and be on the bus alone with teenagers and potential drug addicts/pervs/ God knows who. Trans link bus drivers are fighting for better safety for themselves, why would I put my daughter on the bus? Is the school going to get criminal checks and drivers abstracts done on every bus driver or cab driver? Daycare is also an expense I cannot afford. I'm in a position of a rock and a hard place.

Perhaps we should go straight to blue line buses and see what they would charge. Can't imagine their drivers want to be out of work or the company out revenue.

Perhaps the school board uses the \$1.8 million to buy a small fleet. Perhaps they could pay for a few drivers?? If one bus was all they gave Websters I'd be okay if it took longer to get home - it's safer! I'm sure everyone who takes the bus would still be willing to pay \$215.

Education is a right my child has and no bus is a problem. I pass Albion, Kanaka, Alexander Robinson and blue mountain just to get my kid to Websters. I didn't change the boundaries. I am looking at homeschool as an option which hurts the school board/schools but my kid needs an education. I'm also considering having her go to my sisters so she can have daycare I can afford (free) and go to school - in Coquitlam.

More of a rant than you were looking for but there you go! I really could go on and on I'm so angry but my key points have been made and in an attempt to help with a solution I have put forth some ideas for options.

Let me know what you (and the PAC) need from me as a concerned and choked Websters parent that relies on the bus!

Thanks.