

Courtney Cardy

The following is an impact statement that I sent the Board, my MLA and the Minister of Education, in regards to the School Busses. This will be my topic for discussion as I feel this will be a huge Safety and Environmental concern come September 2016 and therefore MUST be included in the budget...

My son (Ayden Cardy) is enrolled in Whonnock Elementary. He was enrolled there in October of 2014 (beginning of his grade 2 year). When I went to Whonnock to enroll him I noticed how BAD the traffic problem was, so I decided to sign up for the bus service. I live in Stave Falls (just down the street from Rolley Lake), so I would drive my son all of the way to Iron Mountain Store because that is where the closest bus stop was, to hop on a bus for 5 minutes, just so I didn't have to endanger my children, myself and all the other parents that have to scramble to get there kids, lives. There is not even a crossing guard, or anyone in the parking lot monitoring the flow of traffic. When I found out there wasn't going to be any busses next year, I decided I would try driving my son to school this year. It is truly INSANE! I can't even imagine this coming year when there is an extra 60-70 kids that will need to be driven instead of bussed to school. Sometimes leaving my son's school I feel like I've dodged a bullet. It is only a matter of time before 1 of the kids gets seriously hurt there.

Rural schools are not set up (parking lot /drop off) for being 50 kids over capacity, unfortunately the infrastructure just isn't there. The ONLY solution is to bus the kids in, that is what these schools have been set up for. This is what these rural Communities have been doing for MANY years. It would cost the District a ridiculous amount of money to widen the roads and extend the parking lots on all the rural schools. It makes much more sense to operate the buses. If money is the issue than I would like the Maple Ridge School Board to make sure that their portion of the 28 Million that Mike Bernier just returned to the administration budget go towards reinstating the buses.

This is not just a matter of transportation, this is a Public Safety Hazard and a Huge Environmental Impact...