

Written Submission to the Board of Education
Whonnock Community Association

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Trustees, School District 42, Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows
Ms. Sylvia Russell, Superintendent, School District 42
Ms. Laurie Meston, Deputy Superintendent, School District 42
District Education Office
22225 Brown Avenue
Maple Ridge, BC
V2X 8N6

18 February 2016

Re: School bus service for School District 42 Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows

Dear Mr. Murray,

The Whonnock Community Association asks you to reconsider your decision to cancel school bus services in our rural area.


We have been approached by numerous parents for whom the cancellation of the school bus service would constitute outright hardship. In the Whonnock, Ruskin and Thornhill area public transit is not an option for students as the service is inadequate and does not coincide with school times. For most students walking to school is not an option either as the distances to the schools are too great and walking would not be safe.

Families moved to this area with the knowledge that school bus service is available. The policy 5400 of School District 42 clearly states as its philosophy: "The Board of Education ... believes that it is their responsibility to ensure that appropriate student transportation is provided for eligible students to their catchment area school."

We are aware that the school system has suffered enormous funding cuts over the last few years. Yet we urge the School District 42 to live up to its policy and find a solution at least for this rural area to get the children to school.

We look forward to hearing from you in this matter.

Sincerely,


for Sandra Rossington
President

cc: The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
The Honourable Mike Bernier, Minister of Education
Mayor and Council, City of Maple Ridge
Mr. Marc Dalton, MLA Maple Ridge–Mission
Dr. Doug Bing, MLA Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows
Editor, The Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows News
Editor, the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Times