

**Written Submission to the Board of Education  
Courtney White**

Subject: Termination of school buses

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I grew up in the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows area. Three years ago we moved away and now are giving serious thought to moving back. That was until we learned that the buses will be terminated as of the 2016/2017 school year. How do you expect both full-time working parents whose family and friends are also full-time employees get their 6 year old to school? Even if we were to find a home close to a school, would you expect a 6 year old child to walk alone??

I realize how much money will be saved by terminating the buses but there's a larger picture here; school is mandatory and yet you are making it impossible for children to go. In a city that already requires most homes to have two incomes just to survive what are you asking of the families of young children? Most employers are either unable or simply just unwilling to accommodate school hours. And what about our wonderful Principals, Teachers, Aides, and Librarians with children of their own... If their children attend a school other than the one they are employed at, how are they to be there for their students when their own child(ren) need to be safely driven or walked to school? Does this mean the schools will now offer before and after child care so the parents can arrive to their own jobs on time? Terminating the buses will force parents to resign or possibly lose their jobs just so they can safely take their child(ren) to school and pick them up. Furthermore, let's not forget about all the bus drivers now left without employment. This is beyond a major fault in the education system. There has to be a better way!

I am pleading with you to look at the larger picture; the effects this will have on our children and their families. Please reverse your decision and allow the school buses to remain running.