

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 60

PARENT TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION BULLETIN

DATE: May 15, 2015
TO: SD #60 Parents and Staff
FROM: Doug Boyd, Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: Parent Transportation Information Bulletin

Background:

As mentioned in a March 13, 2015 letter to parents, the District was hopeful that a meeting with representatives from the government would take place regarding student transportation funding. To date, that meeting has not occurred but our MLA, Pat Pimm, is still in the process of arranging a meeting with the Minister of Education.

This past year, the Board received one-time support funding from the communities of Taylor, Hudson's Hope, and the surrounding Regional District to assist the Board to operate without bus fees in the 2014/2015 school year. Although the Ministry has made it clear that districts do not have to provide busing, trustees feel that access to education is essential and therefore a priority.

Board Direction:

The Board remains committed to work with the Ministry in finding a solution to the reduction of funding affecting student transportation. At the regular meeting of the SD #60 Board of Trustees, April 20, 2015, it was determined that a decision was necessary to inform parents of pending fees for the next 2015-2016 school year. As a result, the Board has decided to implement a one hundred dollar (\$100) busing registration fee for families having district students that use our transportation system to attend school for the 2015-2016 school year. Although this will not cover the shortfall, reserve contingency funds will be utilized to cover the remainder. Once again, this is a short-term solution that will not be sustainable as these funds are depleted, however, parents would not see implementation of a full fee until the 2016/2017 school year, at the earliest. This decision also allows the Board and community partners to continue to seek solutions with government representatives.

Implementation:

Fee Collection:

1. Registration forms and fees (\$100 per family) will be collected at **school offices** from Tuesday, May 19 to Friday, June 19, 2015. Payments may be made by cheque, Visa, or Mastercard only.
2. The **Board Office** will be available to receive payment and registrations from Tuesday, May 19 to July 10, 2015. Payments may be made by cheque, Visa, Mastercard, debit, or cash.
3. The **Board Office** will again be open for registration and payment of fees from Monday, August 24, 2015 onward.
4. Full payment is due at time of registration and not calculated per student nor on a per-month basis. Fees collected help offset the shortfall for that school year and only represent a very small portion of the total cost, therefore no refunds will be issued once the school year starts.