

October 17, 2022

The Board of Education

School District 68 – Nanaimo & Ladysmith

Good afternoon

My name is Linda Ali and I am writing this letter to you in hopes of addressing a safety concern of mine regarding a busy cross walk used by children and families who attend Cinnabar Valley Elementary.

The cross walk is located on Extension Rd which connects the Country Hills Neighbourhood with Richardson Rd. (Please find map attached). There is a large school population from that neighbourhood and surrounding streets that access the school by using that crosswalk to get to Richardson and then onto the school property. A school zone is in place on Richardson, but not on Extension Rd. The entire area has grown in size and so has the traffic!

The crosswalk does have a push button flashing light system, however this does not always get the attention of drivers and I have witnessed some really close calls. The issues are speed and inattention.

The speed limit on Extension Rd is 50km/hr however the average speed there is more like 65km/hr. Then there are those wishing to turn left off of Extension onto Richardson who sit on the crosswalk blocking it as well as the view to any drivers coming through the intersection. Drivers race down Extension, slamming their brakes on last minute to avoid hitting children in the cross walk. That's all fine while the roads are dry – but when it starts to rain again, that will change braking distance.

I have contacted Jon Stuart for Speed Watch and they will do what they can, however he suggested we go further to seek other solutions as they are busy every where in Nanaimo and it is a volunteer program.

I feel that it would be better to have some consistency at this intersection and would like to know if the school district would hire a Crossing Guard for this cross walk. I do see them at other locations in Nanaimo. I know they are an asset to crosswalk safety.

Thank you for your time and for considering this safety issue – I look forward to your response.

Respectfully

Linda Ali

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