

**From:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**Subject:** T Coyle re: Public After-School Care  
**Date:** September 18, 2024 10:35:13 AM

---

Dear Honourable Trustees,

I am a Nanaimo mother with my first child entering the school system this year. As a new parent, I naively had not previously considered the insurmountable challenges that would arise regarding after-school and summer care for my son once he entered the school system. It only recently dawned on me that there is no system in place to allow me to continue working regular hours. In talking to friends and neighbors, I have learned that this is a pervasive issue that is affecting literally every parent I know. Every family with school aged children is struggling to cobble together enough vacation days, sick days, expensive summer camps, grandparents, and family favours to cover the unbelievable 69 non-instructional workdays per year, as well as an additional 2 hours every school day.

The fact that this complete failure of a system still persists today is shocking to me. I do not know a single family in which both parents do not need to work. For every classroom, there are 30 adults (mostly women) who are losing up to 912 hours of work EACH per year, when we could instead employ one teacher or caretaker to look after the kids. That doesn't even include additional losses for snow days or sick days. This simply does not make any economic sense. The potential losses in tax revenue from having thousands of working adults taking time off to care for one child are vastly outweighed by the amount it would cost to have kids stay in school. The schools already exist, and they are already being heated and cleaned. All we need is to pay more staff to be there.

The Nanaimo school district has about 9000 elementary students. With an average of 2 children each, that is 4500 parents losing over 4 million work hours per year. At a very conservative estimate of \$20/hour, that's at least \$82 million in income lost, and \$14 million in lost tax revenue. To pay teachers or ECEs \$45/hour to cover that time would only cost \$12 million. We would actually be saving millions of tax dollars by keeping kids in school longer.

What surprises me the most is that while this is such a huge problem for so many families, the solution is actually quite simple and achievable. I honestly believe that with enough motivation and interest, we as a society could easily come together to correct his issue. My question is, what can I do to help? I want to see my tax dollars going to fund the school system with the resources it needs to keep kids in school longer and expand after-school and summer care. Is there someone who needs to be convinced? I would happily speak at meetings or write letters if it would help draw attention to this issue.

Please let me know what I can do to help.

Sincerely,

Theraesa Coyle, Nanaimo

---

*This e-mail is privileged, confidential, subject to copyright, not intended for distribution, and may not be reproduced without the authority of the sender. Along with privileged information of the organization, this email may contain confidential personal information about students, their families or employees of **NLPS**. Receivers of this email are reminded that they must not forward confidential personal information to anyone who is not authorized to receive it. If you are not the intended message recipient, please contact the sender as soon as possible and do not disseminate, distribute or copy this email. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited.*