

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: FW: Rutherford to Frank Ney Bus
Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:06:25 AM

From: Sara Collins <>

Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:04 AM

To: District Administration Centre Manager <DistrictAdministrationCentreManager@sd68.bc.ca>; Scott Saywell <SSaywell@sd68.bc.ca>; Pete Sabo <psabo@sd68.bc.ca>; Tim Davie <tdavie@sd68.bc.ca>

Subject: Rutherford to Frank Ney Bus

CAUTION: External Message

To whom it may concern

I am very disappointed to hear that there are discussions to remove the bus route for students who would have been attending Rutherford elementary but have to attend Frank J Ney instead. I have 3 children, ages 5, 5 and 7. They are nowhere near the age where they can safely walk/bike/run/scooter/etc to school without parental supervision. That being said, google maps puts my home a 45 minute walk from Frank J Ney elementary. There is no way that anyone can tell me that it is a safe route to walk. I know that there have been studies done but I live in this area and use these roads and it is absolutely not safe. Additionally, I would not feel comfortable with my small children taking public transportation to and from school. This is a massive safety concern. I live on Tasha Pl which is directly beside Rutherford Elementary school which is now going to be inundated with more vehicles as students from Pleasant Valley will be using that school.

There are currently very few parking spaces at Frank J Ney elementary and if all students who take the bus have to be instead dropped off and picked up, this will raise major concerns in the parking lot at the school and the surrounding roads that parents park on. It's safe to say that ridership has been down this year (my 3 are registered but have not taken the bus as I have concerns around Covid) as many parents have concerns around Covid and the safety of children being on the bus. When Covid is not a factor, the bus is full of kids, it's usually even too full!

I'm disappointed that this is not only a conversation that is being had, but a conversation that is being had without the input of the people who will actually be affected. First, our neighborhood school was closed, then we were told our children had to go to schools that were much farther away (McGirr is a 15 minute walk from my home and Frank J Ney is a 45 minute walk from my home), and now there is a possibility of the bus also being removed. I work full time and my husband has not been due to Covid. We are lucky that we have the ability to drop off and pick up our kids. That would not be a possibility when my husband is working again and would likely force me to reduce my hours at work (in which I've just received a promotion) and/or find afterschool care for my children. If my children were attending Rutherford Elementary school and/or using the bus to and from Frank J Ney elementary, this would not be a problem. Women are primarily the people who have been affected in the workplace due to the Covid-19 pandemic and this seems like another opportunity to make it even more difficult for working mothers.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and hope that the voices of the people who will be affected by this are taken seriously.

Thank you

Sara Collins