

**From:** Karen Matthews  
**To:** Karen Matthews  
**Subject:** FW: Route 16 service from Rutherford to Frank Ney  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:53:37 AM

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**From:** Nichola Williams <>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:53 PM

**To:** Scott Saywell <SSaywell@sd68.bc.ca>; Pete Sabo <psabo@sd68.bc.ca>; Tim Davie <tdavie@sd68.bc.ca>; Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>; Greg Keller <Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca>; District Administration Centre Manager <DistrictAdministrationCentreManager@sd68.bc.ca>; Superintendent <Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca>; Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Programs <AsstSupElementary@sd68.bc.ca>; Director of Communications <DirectorCommunications@sd68.bc.ca>; Facilities Executive Director Planning Operations <ExecutiveDirectorPlanningOperations@sd68.bc.ca>; Communications <Communications@sd68.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Route 16 service from Rutherford to Frank Ney

**CAUTION: External Message**

Dear SD 68 Staff and Trustees,

I am writing in regards to the discussion around the possible cancelation of the Rutherford - Frank Ney bus route. I have two daughters (kindergarten and grade 4) that ride this bus daily, both to and from school. This bus route is crucial to our family. The route is well ridden by members that are attending Frank Ney from the previous Rutherford catchment. I urge you to continue this service for several reasons:

- It is 3 km from our home to Frank Ney - we feel that this is too far for children this young to walk, especially when hilly Hammond Bay Road is involved. This is a high traffic road and drivers are often going well above posted speed limits in the sections that children would be walking.
- I would not feel safe putting children this young on the city bus. City bus transportation is not recommended for children under the age of 10 (as per provincial guidelines - recall the court case with Adrian Crook and the Ministry of Children and Family Development that ultimately went to the Supreme Court of BC for allowing his elementary school aged children to ride the city bus to school on their own.) The city bus route would have children crossing Hammond Bay Rd twice, and the online route planner states that they would arrive at school for 7:45 am, well before supervision will be available. This is not a feasible or safe option.
- Congestion and safety for the Frank Ney parking lot is a continual concern from the school. When the expansion was added on the the school, parking facilities were not expanded. This was permitted because busing was planned. Families are constantly reminded via school newsletters, *"our school parking lot is a very busy place. It is important to know that we have a school bus that does drop off and pick up every day. Please help us ensure every child stays safe and reduce congestion by respecting the intended flow of traffic. Our parking lot and Williamson Road can be extremely congested. Please be PATIENT, COURTEOUS DRIVERS, and respect all our signs. Also, remind your children to cross the street safely."* In fact, the school has needed to designate

safe zones within the parking lot areas to make drop-off and pick-up safe. Having bus families add to this congestion will be overwhelming negative.

- The district prides itself in moving towards a zero waste, green transportation initiative. Having the Rutherford crew arrive by bus rather than single family vehicles is the definition of car pooling.
- Ridership will likely increase next year as school activities begin to normalize post COVID vaccines. Please remember that the district requested families transport their children to school on their own (where possible) rather than using busing this year to support COVID safety. Also, the district has recently advertised an anticipated enrollment increase of 20% next year.
- This bus route was gesture of good faith for the Rutherford community. Transition of catchments and schools for these families is still very fresh. Possible cancellation at this time would be especially harmful, as the district is moving Pleasant Valley students into Rutherford for next school year. A school that was deemed unsafe for our children to attend. It raises the question: is this discussion around cancellation an attempt to recover funds for bussing Pleasant Valley students into Rutherford?

Thank-you for your consideration in this pivotal matter. It truly is key to so many families and the safety of our children.

Nichola Williams

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**From:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Route 16 bus to Frank J Ney  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:52:56 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kathryn Ekman <>  
Sent: March 2, 2021 2:02 PM  
To: Communications <[Communications@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Communications@sd68.bc.ca)>; [mayor.council@nanaimo.ca](mailto:mayor.council@nanaimo.ca)  
Subject: Route 16 bus to Frank J Ney

CAUTION: External Message

I have just learned that the Route 16 school bus to Frank J Ney is up for cancellation today. Rutherford area families have been really messed around with our local school closure, and this is just salt in the wound.

Parents have had no notice of this proposed action and we rely heavily on it. I live 4 km from Frank Ney at the farthest edge of what was the Rutherford catchment. Our small child cannot walk to school that distance. We rely on the bus for safe transport and to keep our jobs by getting to work on time, and as our childcare provider cannot drive to pick up our child after school. In addition, the congestion around FJN is awful and dangerous at drop-off and pick-up - ask the principal how he has to remind people about it so frequently. The City wants sustainability and more public transport - how could this be in anyone's best interest?

Please, please do not cancel our bus route.

Sincerely  
Kathryn Ekman

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**From:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FJN bus route  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:57:31 AM

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**From:** kreen kerr <>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:26 AM  
**To:** District Administration Centre Manager <DistrictAdministrationCentreManager@sd68.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FJN bus route

**CAUTION:** External Message

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the bus route from the old Rutherford Elementary catchment and Frank Ney Elementary. The bus route needs to continue for several reasons:

- 1) Safety and security of our children. Hammond Bay Rd has an ever-increasing traffic load, inadequate sidewalks, and there is no straight and easy route to avoid Hammond Bay Rd. I was one of the parent participants who walked the route with district reps in 2017 and to avoid 2/3 of Hammond Bay Rd the walking route was found to be inefficient, steep, and confusing, taking well over an hour to walk 2/3 of the way from Rutherford school. The bus route also happens to be in the area where the most cougar sightings occur in Nanaimo
- 2) Hammond Bay Rd has a heavy traffic load as is, and a lot of the traffic between 7am and 9am are commuters and industrial traffic. Putting more cars on the road to deliver kids to school will only add to the congestion and inherent pollution
- 3) Distance - many children on the bus route live up to 4.1 kms away from FJN. These distances are too far for students to walk (and keep in mind the wet and cold weather we have from Nov-March.)

Please reconsider axing the route!

Corinne Kerr

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**From:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Rutherford to FJN bus route review  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:57:06 AM

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**From:** Jennifer S. <  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 10:37 PM  
**To:** District Administration Centre Manager <DistrictAdministrationCentreManager@sd68.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Rutherford to FJN bus route review

**CAUTION: External Message**

Hello.

I am writing to you in regards to the review of the Rutherford to Frank J.Ney bus route scheduled for Wednesday's business committee meeting.

My daughter is a passenger on this bus and has been since the closure of our neighborhood school Rutherford. I encourage you to continue this service, even if it is considered a courtesy. The walk to school in the morning during dark, winter days and inclement weather add to the already 3.5km difficult walk for a young child. It is over a 40 minute walk in 1 direction carrying school supplies and lunch.

Please consider if you would want your 10 year old (or younger) child making their way on their own down either a very busy Hammond Bay road or slightly quieter back roads without sidewalks. It is unreasonable to expect this of our students and you all should realized by now that the kids have sacrificed and adapted a significant amount since the closure of their school 3 years ago, and managed through a pandemic for the past year.

The service provided, so far, has been a much needed and appreciated compromise for the sacrifice of our school. Working families depend on it to see that our children make it to school and back safely each day.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer and James Sage

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