

September 23, 2021

Ms. C McKay
Chairperson Board of School Trustees
School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
395 Wakesiah Ave,
Nanaimo, BC
V9R 3K6

Dear Ms. McKay,

I am part of a group of concerned citizens who live near Frank J. Ney Elementary School. We have, over many years, tried to bring attention to student and pedestrian safety issues that exist on two streets namely Entwistle Drive and Carriage Drive. You will find a detailed outline of our concerns included in the Frank J. Ney Safety Proposal attached to this letter.

These concerns have been shared with the school's administrators several times over the years. These same concerns have been shared with the City of Nanaimo via petition, phone calls and letters. Very little has happened in this time to minimize our group's concerns. Interestingly, in 2018, a HASTE Transportation Action Plan was developed by the City and School District without including our items of concern or consulting the neighborhood as a stakeholder in that process.

The safety issues that exist on Entwistle are a direct result of narrow roads, poorly maintained foliage, inadequate signage and are compounded by parking for drop off and pickup of students at Frank J. Ney Elementary School. The section of road that concerns us most is the part of the road that connects Hammond Bay Road running north towards Fillinger Crescent.

Parking on this section of the road is restricted to one side of the road that includes a sidewalk. The opposite side of the road is designated as a "no stopping area". Drivers parked on the road essentially turn Entwistle Drive into a single lane street. Drivers wishing to access Hammond Bay Road and drivers wishing to make their way toward Fillinger Crescent beyond the Walley Creek trail head that connects to the school are forced to stop and let drivers from the opposite direction proceed before driving on.

This situation is made worse by a blind hill that creates multiple safety factors. If traffic has stopped at the bottom of this blind hill, drivers coming over the top of the hill have little time and space to stop. Parked cars wishing to depart the area quickly will often perform U-turns at the base of this blind hill endangering themselves and approaching traffic unable to see these vehicles as they maneuver across the whole of the pavement. Often the vehicles park along the shoulder north along Entwistle Drive beyond the Walley creek trail head due to the limited space designated for parking. Students and pedestrians walking up this blind hill are then forced to walk in the middle of the street to accommodate the cars parked on the shoulder as there is no sidewalk.

Drivers prevented from turning left from Hammond Bay Road cause additional traffic problems for traffic driving east on Hammond Bay as there is no left-hand turn lane at the Hammond Bay-Entwistle intersection. In addition, traffic that is blocked from turning left onto Entwistle Drive will impede the use of a cross walk located at that same intersection. As you can understand, these issues are intensified when the weather is poor, and the skies darken as we move into winter. More parents drive their children to school at these times thus making the parking and traffic situations worse and heightening our safety concerns.

In the case of Carriage Drive, there are several issues at play. Carriage Drive is a narrow residential street without sidewalks and has regular pedestrian use. Carriage Drive terminates into a "No Exit" without a turnaround area and is separated from the school ground by a chain that was formerly designated as a fire

lane. The safety issue is made much worse when parents/drivers stop or park on both sides of Carriage Drive to drop off or pick up students. The resulting lack of space causes drivers to use three point turning techniques to leave the area. It also forces students and pedestrians into the middle of the street to walk to and from the school using Carriage Drive. We have also recorded instances when parents have parked their cars in front of, and in, homeowners' driveways to drop off children at school. I, and others, have been bumped by cars trying to negotiate their way through this extremely crowded part of the street. In addition to these specific issues, our group is also concerned that this traffic congestion would limit fire, police, or ambulance access to homes closest to the school during student drop off and pick up times. Garbage collection and mail delivery are impacted by this traffic congestion. Traffic speed is another problem. The speed at which drivers travel on Carriage Drive is often above the normal speed of 50 kilometers/hour and there is no school zone sign to require drivers to reduce their speed to 30kmh.

Our group of concerned citizens has developed a proposal that outlines our concerns in a detailed manner, provides safety items and risk mitigation to effect change in a proactive manner for all stakeholders. We strongly encourage the City of Nanaimo and School District 68(Nanaimo-Ladysmith) to consider our Frank J. Ney Safety Proposal which is attached to this letter, and we expect that our group will be included as stakeholders in any process that works to mitigate our safety and parking concerns. Representatives of our group are willing to meet with you or your designate(s) in the very near future. To determine a mutually acceptable time and date please contact Ms. Myra Van Otterloo at

These concerns have existed for far too long and we look forward to finding solutions that work for all parties. If you have any questions or require clarification, please feel free to contact either Ms. Van Otterloo or I at any time.

A copy of this letter has been shared with Mr. Saywell, the Superintendent of Schools, The Principal of Frank J. Ney Elementary School and the Frank J. Ney Elementary PAC chairperson. A similar letter has been sent to Mayor Krog and Nanaimo City Councillors.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely yours,



M.K. Cross

Nanaimo. B.C.

cc. Mr. S. Saywell – Superintendent of Schools SD.68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
Ms. S. Coey - Principal Frank J. Ney Elementary School
Mr. D. Benson – PAC Chairperson Frank J. Ney Elementary School