



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Delivered via email to: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

October 28, 2015

Hon. Todd Stone
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
PO Box 9055, Stn Prov Government
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Stone:

RE: Safe Stop Program Support – Fines for Failing to Stop for a School Bus

At the Public Board meeting for School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), the board passed the following motion:

“THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) endorse the Safe Stop program and share support for higher fines, advertising [fines] on buses and the use of surveillance. Correspondence to be copied to ThirdWave and MLA Nicholas Simons.”

It is alarming that a number of drivers in every community continue to ignore the flashing lights as school buses stop to let children off and endanger students by ignoring the limits posted in school zones.

We go to great lengths to ensure our schools are safe for children and we should pay no less attention to our roads and streets.

We are extremely concerned that the fines for “failing to stop for a school bus” are far below those imposed for endangering adults involved in construction or street repair. We respectfully request that you make it a priority to increase those fines and associated points by at least double to reflect the severity of putting children in danger in our community.

Any civil society is judged by the way it treats its most vulnerable members. Awareness and action by your ministry would go a long way to signaling that our children are among our most vulnerable and their safety cannot be compromised.

We urge you to act in a timely manner to increase safety of students and awareness of drivers with notice that infractions will be increased and children must be safe on our roads.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Betty Baxter
Board Chair

p.c.: Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)
Patrick Bocking, Superintendent
Nicholas Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer
Nicholas Simons, MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast
Murray Nicholl, Thirdwave Bus Services
Randy Gould, Thirdwave Bus Services
Cindy Dettling, Safe Stop Coordinator