

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIES

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Weswick
June 9th, 2021

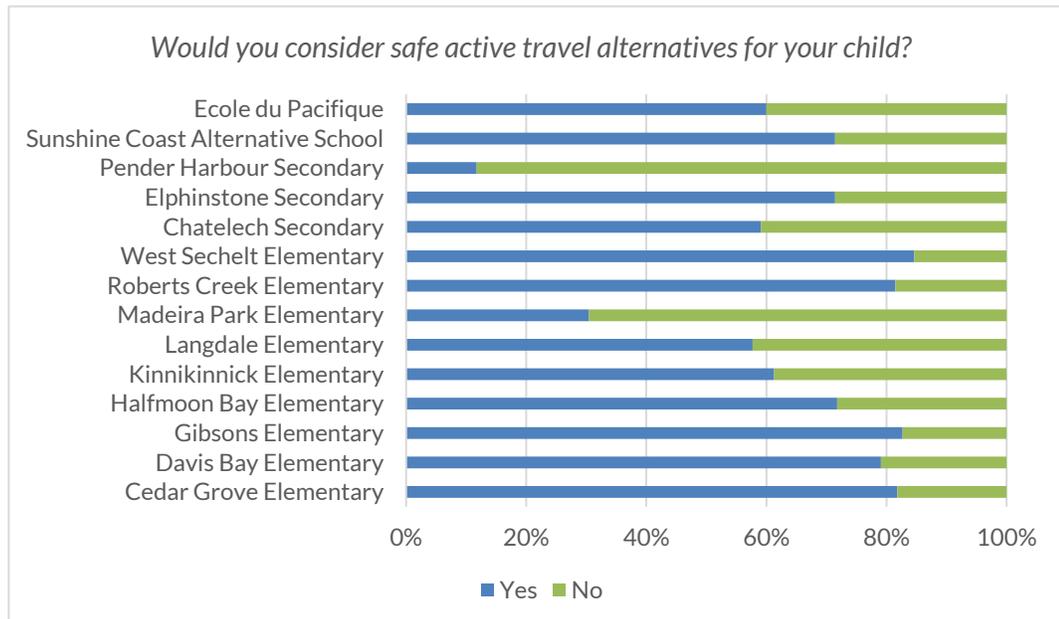
3f Our district will ensure safe and efficient **transportation strategies** for our students.

Background:

The board initiated a review of the district's transportation services during the current school year. Current bus routes were analysed by an external consultant and new routes were developed to help address efficiencies, reduce wait times and improve services to riders. As part of the review, the district engaged families in a survey to garner interest in active travel, identify gaps in service and gauge the overall satisfaction of families with student bus services.

Highlights:

- Thirdwave Bus Services has installed dash cameras on 12 of 15 buses and will be installing additional stop arm cameras on routes with higher incidents of illegal passing.
- The district received 436 responses to the transportation survey issued in January of this year. Overall, families reported being satisfied with bus services. Some families identified dissatisfaction with wait times and afternoon ride times. Many families indicated an interest in considering safe active travel opportunities. A copy of the report is available at <https://www.sd46.bc.ca/sd46-transportation-review/>.



- External consultants developed new bus routes, which were reviewed and compared to current service levels by staff. The routes addressed some issues, such as wait times and items identified in the survey, but increased overall ride times in many cases. The district will continue to work to look for efficiencies before proposing any shifts to routes or significant shifts to bell schedules.
- Active travel has been identified as a priority at several schools. The district is liaising with local governments and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to identify problem areas and look at ways to reduce barriers.

Next Steps:

- Proposing small adjustments to bell schedules at Cedar Grove Elementary, Davis Bay Elementary and Kinnikinnick Elementary to better align with current bus schedules.
- Continuing to work with consultants to refine their proposed routes to better service all students, including the SCAS and CSF.
- Re-engaging with Vancouver Coastal Health's Active Travel Committee, which was on hold during the pandemic.
- Continuing to support schools and PACs in identifying barriers to active travel and advocating for solutions.
- Reviewing and updating regulation 4160 – Transportation of Students.
- Evaluating the cost/benefit of moving bus services in-house.