

November 6, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community,

Throughout the summer and fall, the Delta School District and Delta Board of Education have continued to work to express our concerns about the new transportation funding formula implemented by the BC Ministry of Education. As you are aware, this new formula has resulted in a 47 per cent reduction to Delta's student transportation funding and, as a result, the Delta Board of Education had to make the difficult decision to eliminate all buses transporting students to and from school for walk limit and safety reasons. We maintain that the new transportation funding formula does not work for Delta because it does not take into account our geographical realities.

In the summer, trustees and district staff met with the Minister of Education and then on October 8, 2013 staff met with the Ministry of Education's Technical Review Committee to discuss the difficulties of supporting student transportation within Delta under the new funding formula. The unique and spread-out rural and urban geography of Delta, consisting of vast farmlands and Burn's Bog, which results in higher transportation costs, along with the lack of public transit in the area were explained. As a result of this meeting, the Delta School District has now received a response from this committee.

Unfortunately, the committee will not be recommending changes to the funding formula. Therefore, Delta will not have its student transportation funding restored nor receive any new monies for student transportation.

As a result of this decision, the Delta School District will have to continue to find efficiencies in our transportation services for students with special needs. The challenging geography of Delta continues to make these services very expensive. The Delta Board of Education is committed to finding efficiencies that will have the least effect on students as possible.

While the Delta Board of Education is disappointed with the decision of the Technical Review Committee, we thank the committee for meeting with Delta staff and for its consideration of our concerns. We would like to express our gratitude to District staff, municipal government and our local provincial MLAs for their support in this matter.

To view the full response letter from the Technical Review Committee, please visit the Student Transportation section of the Delta School District website.

Sincerely,



Laura Dixon
Chairperson, Delta Board of Education

c: Keith Punshon, DPAC President
Delta Council/Delta Board of Education Liaison Committee
Vicki Huntington, MLA, Delta South
Scott Hamilton, MLA, Delta North