



RE: Bayview Elementary Safe Access Concerns

Dear Grace Boutilier,

At the Board of Education meeting held on February 22, 2023, the Board directed staff to respond to your letter with respect to accessibility concerns on and at Bayview Elementary School. We appreciate the concern being brought to the attention of the District. There are two initiatives that we think you would like to know.

First, the District is working alongside our partners at the City of Nanaimo in creating Active Transportation Plans at all schools. This is also a specific direction of the Board of Education. We note that Bayview is not yet in the planning stages, however, given the concerns we will consider the timing of the inclusion in such planning. Please visit the district [website](#) for more information on active transportation.

Second, on a yearly basis, the District receives an Annual Facilities Grant to support the maintenance and enhancement of schools. Accessibility is an appropriate use of these funds. At the Board's Business Committee meeting on March 8, 2023, a presentation on the 2023-24 Annual Facilities Grant will be made. Included in that plan are funds to plan for the incorporation of the recently purchased property adjacent to Bayview into the Bayview school site. We will also use this initiative to review accessibility issues as raised in your letter. While this does not guarantee funding for immediate change, it allows for current and future planning associated with the site.

Thank you again for the letter and we are hopeful that the site will be positioned to serve all of our students in a safe and accessible fashion as we continue to plan and implement enhancements.

Sincerely,

Scott Saywell
Superintendent/CEO

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: G. Boutilier Bayview Elementary Safe Access concerns
Date: February 1, 2023 8:09:31 PM

From: Grace Boutilier < >

Sent: January 31, 2023 8:46 PM

To: Chantelle Morvay <Chantelle.Morvay@sd68.bc.ca>; Greg Keller <Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca>; Naomi Bailey <Naomi.Bailey@sd68.bc.ca>; Tom Rokeby <Tom.Rokeby@sd68.bc.ca>; Leana Pellegrin <Leana.Pellegrin@sd68.bc.ca>; Mark Robinson <Mark.Robinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Tania Brzovic <Tania.Brzovic@sd68.bc.ca>; Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>; Leanne Lee <leanne.lee@sd68.bc.ca>

Cc: Echo McNaughton < >; Becky Thiessen < >

Subject: Bayview Elementary Safe Access concerns

CAUTION: External Message

Hello School Board Trustees,

On the invitation of Chantelle Morvay, I am writing to you to request your assistance with a matter that we feel strongly requires your attention.

We are part of a group of South End citizens wishing to advocate for safe, universal access to Bayview Elementary school. Our team includes a community occupational therapist, a teacher/PAC parent member and someone with a masters in accessible community development.

We have identified several inaccessible and unsafe street crossings to access the school as well as a dearth of curb cuts and separated sidewalks on Needham street, which has a significant blind crest bidirectionally. As you are aware, these are barriers for school attendees and community members with mobility impairments. We have begun to advocate for much needed infrastructure upgrades to promote safety and universal access. To this end, we have engaged various stakeholders in the area, including the City of Nanaimo, the South End Community Association, the Snuneymuxw Nation, as well as local disability advocates, childcare providers, developers and the Bayview PAC to contribute to this conversation.

We understand that the School Board will have a vested interest in ensuring safe access for school attendees and the community as a whole. We would be very grateful to know of any steps we can take to further this conversation with you, and what role the board could play in our advocacy efforts to promote safe, inclusive pedestrian access. Would you consider meeting with us for a deeper consultation?

We appreciate your time and interest in our concerns,
Grace, Becky and Echo

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