



RE: Please Support Before and After School Childcare

Thank you for sharing your letter requesting that the district provide affordable universal and quality childcare for all children aged 5-12. Your letter was shared at the Regular Board meeting held on May 25, 2022.

As you know the school district and the Province are working closely in building and providing childcare space across B.C. The Ministry of Education and Child Care's *Child Care Rapid Renovation Fund* is one way the province is quickly addressing the need for more affordable space for families in Nanaimo and Ladysmith. These funds are needed to build additional space at our schools, with the hope that we have childcare space available at every district elementary school.

The challenge we currently face, as explained in our [Long Range Facilities Plan](#), is the ever-increasing enrolment we are experiencing. It is projected that our schools will be 25 per cent over capacity by 2030. With more students, we are tasked with utilizing every inch of space in our schools for classrooms.

Staffing is also a concern. As with many other school districts and other local businesses or organizations, we are finding that there is a growing need for qualified, caring and competent staff but there is a challenge in filling those roles. The district has been very active in recruiting teachers and support staff and continues to this day.

Through the partnership with the Province, the school district does intend on improving accessibility for families while providing affordable childcare options in your community, however, this project will take time and continued financial support from the government.

We understand your concerns and are actively working towards a shared vision for our community.

If families have questions about future childcare space, we invite them to visit the district's childcare [webpage](#) which has contact information for each school's provider.

Sincerely,

Charlene McKay
Board Chair

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: FW: Please support before and after school childcare
Date: June 8, 2022 4:06:48 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Christine Tremblay <>
Sent: June 1, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Charlene Mckay <Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca>
Subject: Please support before and after school childcare

CAUTION: External Message

Dear School Trustees,

The B.C. government is working to implement a universal \$10 per day childcare system. While a new system like this takes time to scale up to meet the nearly overwhelming demand across the province, progress is being made. As you know, the government and school districts are currently piloting more than 20 “Seamless Day” programs around the province for Kindergarten-aged kids, and the federal government has recently announced significant financial resources to support childcare for kids aged 0-5.

What’s missing is affordable universal, quality childcare for all school-aged children (ages 5 to 12). The solution to this need is right in front of us – our existing public school system.

I support public childcare integrated into the public education system from the early years on. But before and after school care is the obvious and necessary next step.

Before and after school childcare in schools just makes sense on so many levels:

- Low—or no—capital investments or construction required—public schools are already here;
- No recruitment/retention problems with staffing—qualified Education Assistants are already in place, and most of them don’t receive full-time hours of work;
- Public delivery by school boards ensures high-quality care and oversight within an existing governance structure;
- Improved accessibility and fewer transitions for kids;
- Cost-effective delivery of high-quality childcare spaces; and
- One-stop for parents—just drop your kids at school in the morning and pick them up at the end of the day—no more running to multiple locations or juggling competing schedules.

Recent decisions by the B.C. government have given school districts the means and mandate to implement before- and after-school programs.

Given the benefits to families, kids and our schools, I am asking you to call on the Provincial Government to fully implement the \$10aDay childcare plan, and give School Districts the funding needed to deliver affordable childcare, including before and after school care.

I also ask that you take the much needed first step of implementing before- and after-school care directly operated by our local school district. Families in our community desperately need high quality before and after school care located at the school their children attend. The school district is ideally situated to open these spaces quickly and efficiently using existing school infrastructure and staff.

Sincerely,
Christine Tremblay

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