



**RE: Board Correspondence – Travel and Fuel Restrictions**

Dear Graeme Rouse,

Thank you for your letter dated December 1, 2021. It was shared at a Board meeting held on December 15, 2021.

I appreciate you sharing your message and I understand how these measures may affect some of our students. It was not an easy decision and one I did not take lightly. The measures were developed following direction B.C. school districts received from the Ministry of Education on November 21. As of last week, districts on the Island and Lower Mainland put similar measures in place.

As you know, the cancellation and postponement of extracurricular activities, such as sport and associated events, were one of many measures the school district announced in attempting to limit non-essential travel and allow fuel supplies to be redirected to essential vehicles.

In an effort to have students participate in these important activities, we lessened the restrictions so that students are able to attend most sporting events and field trips.

It was important that the school district do its part to ensure school buses, emergency, public and shipping vehicles have the necessary fuel to supply B.C. with the goods and services we all require.

Sincerely,

Charlene McKay  
Board Chair

**From:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**To:** [Karen Matthews](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter: Non-Essential Travel and Fuel Restrictions  
**Date:** December 6, 2021 4:31:18 PM

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**From:** Graeme Rouse <>  
**Sent:** December 1, 2021 8:33 PM  
**To:** Superintendent <[Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca)>; Charlene Mckay <[Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Charlene.Mckay@sd68.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter: Non-Essential Travel and Fuel Restrictions

**CAUTION:** External Message

Charlene, Scott and the board,

I am writing as a parent, taxpayer, voter, and community member in SD68.

I'm seeing that you have good intentions with these policies. However, I'm concerned that you are underestimating the value of all activities of education. By splitting the aspects of education into buckets of 'essential' and 'non-essential', you are throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

Please consider that it's important to provide a consistent and stable environment to support learners. Talk to your teachers about how having to cancel field trips affects their success in the classroom. Ask them how it affects the mood and success of their students.

Consider the value of sporting practices or field trips and how they challenge and inspire kids and contribute towards an "inclusive and personalized learning community". Consider how losing these opportunities affects kids on the margins. And then consider the impacts on the Vision of "success for all."

Consider the message that you can send to children by advocating for them. What better way to inspire a "courageous, innovative" community than leading it by example.

All aspects of education are essential. They all need to continue for the benefit of the children in our community.

I am sure that if you start from this standpoint that you will come up with dozens of good reasons to continue to provide all the same educational programs for learners. You are the subject matter experts.

There has been a lot of instability in our lives for the past couple years. Children have quietly borne the brunt of the shifting policies. As a group, they don't have a voice yet. Show them that they have value by standing up for them. Defend their needs and defend the values of NLPS. Earn their trust and confidence by demonstrating your accountability and integrity.

You've been elected and hired to be advocates for education and children in our community. You owe it to them to try harder to protect them.

Graeme Rouse

P.S. I took a lot of inspiration from your Vision, Mission and Values:

<https://www.sd68.bc.ca/district/vision-mission-and-values/>

On Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 11:54 AM NLPS Communications <[broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com](mailto:broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com)> wrote:

Dear NLPS families:

On November 19, the Province of B.C. implemented [two temporary emergency Orders](#) as a response to the recent flooding and mudslides. The order was originally in place until the end of November, however due to the prolonged fuel supply shortage, the [order](#) was extended to Tuesday, December 14.

The Province of B.C. has requested that school districts continue to limit non-essential travel and take measurements to reduce fuel consumption. This may include field trips and extracurricular sporting events.

Our decision to limit non-essential travel was a difficult decision and one we did not take lightly. We understand how important school field trips and sporting events are for our student's social development and mental health, especially during a global pandemic.

Moving forward, we want to do our part to limit non-essential travel while acknowledging that it may not be practicable to cancel or postpone some events.

The following changes will be implemented starting today:

- Continue to encourage schools to postpone or reschedule events and/or games wherever possible.
- If schools and/or teams are not able to reschedule events and/or games and they must travel, we encourage the use of school buses or approved larger vehicles.
- Field trips can occur when we can use public transportation, walking or buses to transport students as a class, instead of volunteer parent drivers.

We ask that everyone do their best to reduce fuel consumption while the temporary emergency Orders are in effect.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience. We will provide updates that concern you as soon as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Charlene McKay, Board Chair  
Scott Saywell, Superintendent/CEO

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