



School District No. 60

PEACE RIVER NORTH

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

January 23, 2014

Parent Advisory Councils
Interested Parents

Dear Parents:

The Board is aware from some PACs and individual parents of a concern being brought forward regarding parking on and around school property. The traffic congestion occurring at school sites, pre and post school, is a genuine concern; however, the single response of adding more parking is not necessarily the answer.

Normally funding for specified parking allocations is only allocated at the time a school is constructed. This space is then required to be maintained by the district through their Annual Facilities Grant (AFG), the same limited funding that is used for general building and grounds maintenance and repairs. In order to create more parking spaces, the district would have to place that item on a higher priority than maintaining buildings and grounds that currently exist. Additionally, new spaces would also likely reduce space for educational activities such as playgrounds.

Typically, neighbourhood schools are located in residential areas where students are able to walk to school. Today we see a growing trend to drive students to and from school, thus creating parking problems. As this situation grows, district personnel are not able to address traffic flow issues. Even if only half of the students of a 350 student population are transported by private vehicles, the district would be unable to provide 175 vehicles with parking.

The Board of Education is unable to attain or re-allocate funding to create bigger parking lots and therefore respectfully recommends the following suggestions:

1. Have students walk to school, promoting physical activity and healthy living.
2. PAC or parent group(s) organize a model of the 'walking school bus' where screened adults walk small groups of students to and from school in a safe orderly fashion.
3. Where absolutely necessary, car pool to limit the number of vehicles on the road.
4. If driving, drop the student off at least a block away on a less frequently travelled route using a different street would assist with this strategy.
5. If required to pick your child up, designate a meeting location away from the streets directly surrounding the school. This action will assist students in having safer access to your vehicle location and allow you to depart quickly and safely.

Yours truly,

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District No. 60
(Peace River North)

Jaret Thompson
Board Chair

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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