



School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)

MEDIA RELEASE

(June 15, 2010)

Changes to Bus Routes

Preliminary results of a recent transportation review requested by the Okanagan Skaha school district were presented to the Board of Education at its meeting held on Monday, June 14, 2010. The review, conducted by Advantage Fleet Services Inc., looked at all bus routes in the Penticton, Naramata, and Kaleden areas with a goal of finding savings to help balance the budget. Old Ministry of Education walk limits were used as a guide. The Board of Education approved the following preliminary recommendations for the 2010-11 school year:

- Remove bus transportation to Spiller Road. Currently, five students would be affected by this change; these students would need to catch a bus on Naramata Road. Students attending Uplands Elementary would have to wait an additional 20 minutes in the afternoon.
- Remove the first morning run to Twin Lakes. The three students who attend KVR Middle and Penticton Secondary Schools affected by this reduction could travel to Kaleden to meet another bus that would take them to their schools or they could transfer to their neighbourhood schools of Skaha Lake Middle and Princess Margaret Secondary.
- Removal of the first morning run to Kaleden with elimination of the stop at Ponderosa and Fifth. Students would have to walk one extra block to catch the bus at Oak and Fifth.

These changes will save the district approximately \$50,000.

“We realize these changes will inconvenience some students and parents; however, we have kept the changes to a minimum and are still able to achieve substantial savings that will go back into the classroom,” stated Chair Ginny Manning. “The school district currently spends more funds on transportation than received from the Ministry and these changes will bring the expenses closer to the funding received.”

All Summerland bus routes will be reviewed in September in hopes that some savings can be achieved in that area. Revised bus schedules will be available on the school district website in late August.

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