



Transportation Scenario Review Forum

Queen Elizabeth High School

May 4, 2016

23 Total Participants

Scenario Number Discussed: 1

Recorder: Richard Delaney

Number of Participants in Group: 5

Interests	# of Participants
(Blue) My child takes transportation arranged by the Calgary Board of Education to get to school (yellow school bus, etc.)	2
(Yellow) My child gets to school in another way (walks, private vehicle, public transit etc.)	3
(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	4
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Simple
- One change
- Easy to administer
- Impact on parent – not child
- \$1.10 per day, per child
- Like that there is no family maximum

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Fee increase – especially if more than one child, then you have to add lunch supervision charge
- Some will not like that there is no family maximum

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Reduce the cost by adjusting service levels a bit
- Pro-rated / installment plan / deferred payments



- Needs to be better communicated
- Communicate before end of school year

Recorder: Jennifer Miller

Number of Participants in Group: 6

Interests	# of Participants
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(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	1

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Distance to the stop stays the same
- Existing service model
- Nothing
- Service and student is the same (regular and alternative programs treated equally)

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Fee increase
- Financial hardship (especially for families with multiple kids)
- Waivers would increase because of higher fee
- Everybody pays one amount
- Fees
- Lack of flexibility
 - In the fees
 - Travel distances (would like lower for younger – variable within Elementary)
 - For fees – would like an option for people to pay more if they choose
- Agree – would like lower walk distance for younger
- Fee increase (especially for multiple kids)

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Fee based on distance
- Add flexibility on pay scale (pay more than full fee if you can)
- Reduce walk distance for K-3
- Look at eliminating low ridership routes
- Cap on family fee (family maximum)



Scenario Number Discussed: 2

Recorder: Jenn Holland

Number of Participants in Group: 6

=Interests	# of Participant s
(Blue) My child takes transportation arranged by the Calgary Board of Education to get to school (yellow school bus, etc.)	4
(Yellow) My child gets to school in another way (walks, private vehicle, public transit etc.)	1
(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	4
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Fees stay the same (whole group agrees)
- The congregated stops are close to what they used to be (2 other participants agree)
- It levels the playing field between language and alternative and non-language (3 other participants agree)
- Close to what we have now (2 others agree)
- Economy is bad and some people have an advantage compared to others
- Pleased that mid-day kindergarten is provided (2 others agree)
- Cost is advantage

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Too far a distance
- Congregated stops is drawback, but don't have a problem
- Kids have to walk in another community
- Kids would have to cross big roads
- Travel distance (both home and back) should be considered for safety
- Paying attention to community-related dangers. Parents should be able to comment on areas in their neighbourhood that are not safe
- In winter distance is far
- 2017-2018 start time – what do we do until then?
- Congregated stops are too far
- Have people who create stops KNOW routes
- Consideration of timing of stops for younger kids (shouldn't be earlier than set time)
- I think 1.8 km is far to walk
- Don't like crossing of busy roads
- Some routes are overcrowded (congregated). There are 3 kids to a seat, plus musical instruments



Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Bring back block parents. SAFE houses
 - They could be a middle-of-the-road place between home and day cares for kids to be safe on their walk home
 - Could reach out through community associations to staff
- Consideration of busy road crossings (in the dark) in route planning (3 others agree)
- Consideration of relation of stops in relation to neighbourhood (2 others agree)
- Drop travel distance to 1.3 km for elementary and 1.5 km for junior and middle

Recorder: Kerri Popp

Number of Participants in Group: 6

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(Yellow) My child gets to school in another way (walks, private vehicle, public transit etc.)	2
(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	6
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	1

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Keep mid-day kindergarten busing or full-day kindergarten
- Like advance notice for routes
- Keep fee same – easier to budget

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Impacts families who work, and distance to stop
- Unequal access for alternative program students
- Make all stops congregated regardless of program
- Too far for kindergarten students to travel to stop

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Consistency for bus stops for all programs from year to year
- Smaller catchment area for certain alternative programs
- Should be equal for all
- Close or review cost of some programs
- Open more locations for popular alternative programs – less busing if students live in those communities
- Smaller bus zones comparable to Edmonton public for alternative programs



Scenario Number Discussed: 3

Recorder: Richard Delaney

Number of Participants in Group: 5

Interests	# of Participants
(Blue) My child takes transportation arranged by the Calgary Board of Education to get to school (yellow school bus, etc.)	2
(Yellow) My child gets to school in another way (walks, private vehicle, public transit etc.)	3
(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	4
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Help for people who are on waivers
- Some congregation

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- The key driver for the scenario should not be just cost
- Should be a combination of fee increases and some service reduction – not one or the other
- Distance to congregated stop

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- People need to know the transportation costs / consequences of their program choice
- Know route/bus stop when you register
- Addition of fees for late registration
- Freeze routes that are set upon deadline – late registrants need to get their child to the nearest open route
- With GPS, congregated stops are more palatable – i.e. parents can tell if a bus is on time before they leave the house to get to the stop; parents can confirm if bus arrived at stop, arrived at school, etc.
- City planners need to better integrate these kinds of considerations earlier – provincial authorities need to enforce



Recorder: Jennifer Miller

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(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	4
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	1

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Fees remain the same (2 others agree)
- Reduced ride time
- Really like the waiver flexibility (contribute something)
- Nothing
- Waiver flexibility (any flexibility in the scenarios is good)
- Waiver flexibility
- Eliminating low ridership
- Pay-what-you-can for waivers

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Eliminates mid-day kindergarten service (3 others agree)
- Don't like that fees remain the same
- Getting rid of low ridership routes (1 other agrees)
- Congregated stops
 - Big challenge for parents who don't drive
 - Affects choice for alternative programs (some won't choose alt.)
- Congregated stops

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- OK with getting rid of mid-day Kindergarten service, BUT need to consult affected families on how to handle it (i.e. move to full-day K or other options)
- Encourage more bus ridership to increase numbers and bring down fees
- Manage congregated stops sensibly
- Increase the fees
- Lower the walk distances
- Figure out midday service



- Reintroduce daycare at schools for Kindergarten
- Lower fee for Kindergarten if you eliminate the mid-day service

Scenario Number Discussed: 4

Recorder: Jenn Holland

Number of Participants in Group: 6

Interests	# of Participants
(Blue) My child takes transportation arranged by the Calgary Board of Education to get to school (yellow school bus, etc.)	4
(Yellow) My child gets to school in another way (walks, private vehicle, public transit etc.)	1
(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	4
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Kindergarten provided (2 others agree)
- Nice distance
- Shorter distance (1 other agrees)
- Working with waivers – parents pay what they can (2 others agree)
- More partnering would be beneficial
- I prefer this scenario

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- The fees are higher (3 others agree)
- The ride times are longer (3 others agree)
- Implementation time is longer, the process is longer
- Year 1 fee is double – that will be hard for families with more than 1 child
- Fee is double
- The fee would never roll back
- Bell times could be bad for some people

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- More planning with Calgary Transit
- A happy medium between walk distance and cost (whole group agrees)
- Move the dial a little
- The fee amount should be lower because the higher fee will result in more waivers and non-payment



Recorder: Kerri Popp

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(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	1

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Pricing fair across all programs
- 800m travel distance to the stop
- Change to waiver program

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- 800m still too far for kindergarten students to travel
- Too far for elementary students
- Bell times change could impact families with students in different schools
- Longer ride times unacceptable
- Bell times changing isn't a significant cost savings

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Fee increase is significant and may impact families
- No change to bell times

Question: Zonar Cards – when will we use them?



Scenario Number Discussed: 5A

Recorder: Richard Delaney

Number of Participants in Group: 5

Interests	# of Participants
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(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	4
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Walk zones expansion

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Paying more and getting less
- Difference between alternative and regular

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Too much to be changed – needs a total re-work

Recorder: Kerri Popp

Number of Participants in Group: 6

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(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0



Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- No one liked this
- Liked to see the breakdown on changing the walk distance and what the effect is

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- This is awful – don't want to consider
- Too expensive – will impact families financially
- Calgary Transit cost is a concern

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- No one in the group had anything to suggest in response.

Recorder: Jenn Holland

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(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Nothing (3 others agree)

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Two-tiered cost (3 others agree)
- Don't like no mid-day service for Kindergarten (2 others agree)
- Grades 7-9 on Calgary Transit (1 transfer!)
- Everything
- More fees for less service
- Doesn't make sense on service vs. cost compared to Scenarios 2 and 4
- Many uncertainties



Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- The whole thing (3 others agree)

Recorder: Jennifer Miller

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(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	1

Note: The group decided to skip this scenario – nobody liked this one.

Scenario Number Discussed: 5B

Recorder: Jennifer Miller

Number of Participants in Group: 6

Interests	# of Participants
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(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	4
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0
(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	1



Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Different fee for regular and alternative
- Phased implementation
- Fee increase but not drastic
- Separation but not drastic
- Ok with fees (bit more than \$300 is ok)
- Different fees
- More reasonable fee increase
- Increase the walk zone to schools
- Not a huge fee increase

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Alternative is more than regular (1 other agrees)
- Lose mid-day (3 others agree)
- Increased fees may increase waivers
- Could reduce alternative program enrollment
- Walk distance (1 other agrees)
- Doesn't include flex waivers
- May limit ability to choose alternative programs because of cost
- Tiered fees
- More waivers needed
- Longer distance (for those who don't drive)

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Fees based on distance instead of by program (over 10 km)
- Reduce walk distance
- Plan carefully and consult those affected
- Smaller difference in fee between regular and alternative
- Ok to pay more for further
- Reduce walk distance
- Same fees for all programs
- Fees by distance for alternative
- If no choice, overflow should pay reduce fee
- Fairly charge those going further up but don't penalize those without choice
- Sliding scale on distance for alternative
- Waivers should be pay what you can

New Scenario:

- Fee sliding scale based on distance and program
- Waivers pay what you can – don't dictate 25%)
- Lower walk distances (400m)
- Congregated stops for extreme situations (alternative programs with low ridership) but consult on location of stop
- Keep midday kindergarten or find another way (daycare at schools; full-day kindergarten)
- Accountability for bus companies
- Change bell times to max partnered buses



Recorder: Richard Delaney

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(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0

Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Like that everybody has to walk a little further – no discrimination

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

(This question was not discussed)

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Alternative program schools are inside transportation zones and if you are outside the zone you pay more in a tiered way the further out you live
- Costs (fees) are equal between alternative and regular programs
 - i.e. shift regular program costs up
- Should we be looking to close these alternative programs that cost the system an exorbitant amount?

Recorder: Jenn Holland

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(Green) My child attends an alternate program (language, Montessori, science, TLC) or complex needs program	4
(Red) My child uses complex needs transportation	0



(No Dots) I currently have no children in the Calgary Board of Education system	0
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Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Nothing (3 others agree)

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Two tiered – don't like this (3 others agree)
- Walk distance to 2 km is a bad idea
- Eliminates kindergarten (3 others agree)
- Should be struck from the matrix (3 others agree)
- Paying more for less
- I hope this isn't on the table at all

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Throw it away (whole group agrees)

Recorder: Kerri Popp

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Q1: What do you like about this scenario?

- Idea of full-day kindergarten classes is good, could help with child care
- Full-day kindergarten beneficial for lower income families

Q2: What don't you like about this scenario?

- Mid-day kindergarten eliminated – some students may not attend
- Full-day kindergarten could cause child care issues – some daycares won't accommodate
- Full-day kindergarten too long for young children

Q3: How would you change this scenario to make it more acceptable?

- Like the concept of ½ day kindergarten; don't want transportation eliminated
- Fee should be the same for all students regardless of program



Public and Parents Engagement Evaluation – Queen Elizabeth High School

To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements:

P1) I was encouraged to share my thoughts and/or feedback during this engagement.

19 Agree 1 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not
Applicable

P2) I was able to ask questions and learn about the opportunity for input/feedback prior to my participation in this engagement.

16 Agree 4 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not
Applicable

P3) I had the information I needed to participate in a meaningful way.

11 Agree 9 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not
Applicable

P4) I was able to provide input on the best way for me to share my thoughts and ideas.

15 Agree 5 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not
Applicable

P5) I clearly understand all of the factors being considered in the decision making process and which of these factors I can and cannot influence.

8 Agree 9 Somewhat Agree 1 Somewhat Disagree 1 Disagree 0 Not
Applicable

P6) My input was documented as part of the engagement process.

18 Agree 2 Somewhat Agree 0 Somewhat Disagree 0 Disagree 0 Not
Applicable



P7) What did you like most about this engagement?

- I really liked the opportunity to speak about different scenarios and plug and play other options.
- Non stakeholder participation.
- Participation, great location, accessible.
- Feel like parents are having the ability to give great input.
- Everyone gets equal opportunity to speak.
- It provides insight into other opinions.
- Very respectful and professional.
- Great opportunity to share ideas with other parents, CBE staff, trustees. Everyone was helpful and thoughtful!
- Engagement and participation of CBE staff and leadership.
- It was good; tried to be balanced. Most had an 80,000 ft view vs. individual focus.
- Discussion and input opportunity for all participants.
- Group discussion.
- I liked to hear from other parents and know that there are similar concerns shared across the board. You are trying to listen to parents and make changes that work. I appreciate the work you're putting in knowing you are in a different position and no decision will be good for every person involved.
- To be able to see other parent's views and how affected they should also be. Also, that some questions were answered; questions that did not involve any scenario.
- Great encouragement to have all participants involved.
- Different people can voice out in different opinion.
- Everyone can share their opinion.

P8) What did you like least about this engagement?

- Not having a feeling of how everything will play out.
- Temperature in the room.
- The warm room.
- Forced into talking about certain scenarios only.
- Scenarios did not include all the details needed. Most participants drive and are not aware of those lower income families (the challenges they face getting to the bus stop) who use waivers but would like to pay small portion.
- Room was too hot!
- The temperature.
- Damn it's hot in here.
- Nothing concrete.
- None.
- I will be so angry if you announce a budget surplus again after raising fees.
- There should be a better way to mix and match components of each scenario to come up with the "best scenario". There is still a lot of confusion about how funding is provided by the province.