



## TRANSPORTATION FEE UPDATE

February 14, 2023

To our FSD Parents and Community,

Last spring, when faced with the reality of reduced operational funding, we announced that a transportation service user fee for our eligible riders would be in place as of February 2023.

I am writing you today to update you on the status of this fee. In December 2022, the Board of Trustees became aware of a Mandate Letter sent from Premiere Smith to the Ministry of Education that recognized the importance of transportation funding for schools. Listing it as a priority, we as a school division now anticipate additional financial support for the 2023-2024 school year. As such, the **Board of Trustees has decided to defer implementing the transportation service user fee.**

Foothills School Division will determine if the implementation of a transportation user fee is required for eligible riders after the Provincial Budget is announced and the division finalizes its operational budget for the 2023-2024 year.

We appreciate your understanding as we work to efficiently manage our resources while providing quality education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Drew Chipman".

Drew Chipman  
Assistant Superintendent, Corporate Services

### WHY WERE WE CONSIDERING A FEE?

- Government funding for eligible riders does not cover all associated transport costs.
- Insurance costs have increased over 300% since 2019.
- Transportation costs have increased over 9% since 2021.
- A fee would allow FSD to maintain safe service for students and focus funds in classrooms.