



The Corporation of The Town of Amherstburg

September 30, 2020

Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services
360 Fairview Avenue West, Suite 318
Essex, ON
N8M 3G4

Attn: Ms. Gabrielle MacMillan, General Manager

RE: Student Transportation Services

Since the onset of the 2020/2021 school year, a number of parents have brought concerns about changes to school bus eligibility requirements to the attention of Council. It was noted that one letter in particular, received from Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services indicated that there has been a review of eligibility requirements and identified hazards under your Hazard Policy. It is also noted that improvements to infrastructure such as traffic lights, sidewalks and other improvements can result in an elimination of the hazard and a recent review of such identifies that the hazard in the child(ren)'s walking path no longer meets the criteria under the policy, therefore no longer affording the child(ren) the opportunity to ride the school bus.

In speaking with the undersigned of that particular letter, Ms. Gabrielle MacMillan, General Manager indicated that the review comes in light of COVID-19 in an effort to appropriately meet bussing requirements for physical distancing and additionally to address driver shortages. This review has in turn increased pedestrian traffic and has parents concerned for the safety of their children, not only while attending school in these unprecedented times, but now also while walking to school.

Considering the concerns brought forward by parents, Council, at its meeting of September 28, 2020, passed the following resolution:

"That Administration BE DIRECTED to send a letter to student transportation services requesting them to revisit their bussing boundaries; and,

A copy of the letter BE SENT to the Premier, the Minister of Education, Windsor-Essex County School Boards, and the Town's local MP & MPP's."

While the municipality does provide safe paths of travel for its pedestrians, Council empathizes with the concerns of parents, and respectfully requests that you re-evaluate bussing boundaries to alleviate these concerns where possible.

Sincerely,



Paula Parker
Municipal Clerk on behalf of Town Council

Cc:

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