



Queen Anne Elementary
2100 4th Avenue North
Seattle, Washington
98109
206-252-2480

1.27.21

Dear QAE Families,

I am writing to you today about a very serious decision that is about to be made by the SPS School Board which will impact Queen Anne Elementary.

What is the issue before the Seattle Public Schools Board of Education? SPS must cut about \$40 million dollars from the 21-22 budget. As one cost saving measure, the Board suggested that SPS cut all bus transportation to Option Schools. (They have proposed a couple of option schools that would keep their buses and maybe students that qualify for free/reduced lunch support.)

How does this impact QAE? *37% of QAE students take the bus every day. Many QAE families depend on the bus for transportation – in every class, there are about 7-8 explorers who rely on a Yellow Bus to get to school and get home every day.*

- Students are eligible for the bus if they live more than 1 mile away from QAE AND live within the [QAE Geographic Zone](#) or [QAE Transportation Area](#).
- If QAE families live outside of the [GeoZone](#), they would continue to be responsible for transporting their children as they always have.

Why am I so concerned?

- **This will have a significant impact on our entire school community.** Not only would this affect 37% of QAE explorers and their families, it would significantly impact QAE enrollment. I want to ensure we communicate the full impact at QAE and other option schools.
- **This is an equity issue.** QAE Yellow Bus riders include families of color and families furthest from educational justice. I wonder if the SPS Racial Equity Analysis tool was used when discussing and analyzing this decision? What are the unintended consequences? Although it affects QAE, at some options schools more than half of their student body relies on bus transportation and many of those families are families of color who would no longer be able to attend the school without the bus transportation.
- **If bussing is removed, who will be able to attend [Option Schools](#)? Who will be able to provide their own transportation?** The elimination of Option School busing is in direct opposition to the Seattle Excellence Plan: Welcoming and Safe Schools-Supporting the Whole Child and creating welcoming environments where kids (and their families) are known. QAE provides a place for our entire community and to have an equity-centered school experience where everyone's culture is valued. Other Option Schools provide just that - options for families.
- **How were families engaged and involved in this decision?** While the intent of eliminating busing is to save money AND not make other cuts, the IMPACT of this decision on Option Schools and families furthest from educational justice attending those schools is detrimental. This is in direct opposition to the Seattle Excellence Plan: Inclusive and



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Authentic Engagement-Families and communities who represent students of color furthest from educational justice will have meaningful voice in school and district initiatives.

- **Communication regarding this decision does not meet the directives of Seattle Excellence Plan, Predictable and Consistent Operational Systems: Improve communication to students, families, school leaders.** Our virtual information sessions are on Thursday - how do I effectively communicate with interested families around busing if I don't know what the plan is and haven't been asked or involved in the decision-making process? How do I help current families know what the plan will be for next year and whether or not they should rely on having transportation? **If they need this transportation, and therefore, must leave QAE, we will potentially lose staff which will impact our entire school.**
- The cost savings from the elimination of bussing is around \$750,000, however, we must subtract the cost if students with IEPs or those that qualify for free or reduced lunch are continuing to be transported, two ideas within the proposal. **At the end of the day, the impact to families and schools seems more harmful than the cost saved.**

What can you do?

- If this decision impacts your family, or could potentially impact your family, I encourage you to write to the School Board (contact information below) and share your experience, thoughts and concerns.
- If you are concerned about all Seattle students having equitable access to [Option Schools](#), I encourage you to write to the School Board and share your thoughts and concerns.
- If any of my concerns resonate with you, I encourage you to write to the School Board and share your thoughts and concerns.

This was an idea from the School Board, and has yet to be voted on. There is still time for the School Board to make a different cost-saving decision and continue bussing for option schools. However, the timeline is short, so please be aware.

School Board Contact Information:

schoolboard@seattleschools.org - School Board Directors, Superintendent, and Senior Staff

spsdirectors@seattleschools.org – This email is if you would like to contact only the 7 School Board Directors, and do not seek District staff assistance in responding to questions or concerns.

District 1: School Board Director Liza Rankin: liza.rankin@seattleschools.org

District 2: School Board Director Lisa Rivera-Smith: lisa.rivera-smith@seattleschools.org

District 3 and School Board Director: Chandra N. Hampson:
chandra.hampson@seattleschools.org



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QAE's District Board Director position is vacant.

District 5: School Board Director: Zachary DeWolf: zachary.dewolf@seattleschools.org

District 6: School Board Director: Leslie Harris: leslie.harris@seattleschools.org

District 7: School Board Director: Brandon K. Hersey: brandon.hersey@seattleschools.org

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at jbroy@seattleschools.org.

Respectfully,

Janine

Janine Roy
She/Her
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QAE District website: <https://queenannees.seattleschools.org/>
QAE PTSA website: <https://www.qaeptsa.org/>.

*"When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something, to **do something**. Our children and their children will ask us, 'What did you do? What did you say?' ...We have a mission and a mandate to be on the right side of history."*

- John Lewis, American Civil Rights Leader and Member of U.S. House of Representatives (1940 – 2020)