



GRAND VALLEY

STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Brad Haines – Bylaw & Property Standards Enforcement Officer
Meeting Date: January 27, 2026
Report Number: 2026-013
Subject: Grand Valley and District Public School Parking Concerns

Recommendation

THAT Council receives Report – Grand Valley and District Public School Parking Concerns for information purposes and staff be directed to make the following changes to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2019-72,

AND THAT staff present the amended by-law for passing at a future council meeting.

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the complaints received regarding the School and Community Safety Zone and provide suggestions of possible solutions to address the parking complaints and improve overall public safety.

Key Findings

Multiple times per year, the Town receives complaints regarding parking issues during drop off and dismissal times at the Grand Valley and District Public School. By-law Enforcement has attended the area during drop off times and dismissal times (8:30-9am / 2:30-3pm) and have found a number of safety concerns that need to be addressed. These concerns are likely going to continue to grow as the Town's population and the school's enrollment increases.

Specific concerns around the school include;

- Parking on both sides of the road along Rainey Drive, while currently only a drop-off zone is permitted on the south side.
- Drop-off zone being used as parking lot and not as a drop-off lane as intended (cars being left unattended)
- Due to volume / misuse of drop off lane, vehicles are often lined up past the designated drop off zone impeding on the no parking zone west of Main Street and Rainey Drive.
- Fire hydrant along Rainey Drive drop-off lane is often blocked as parents are parking / leaving their vehicles and not simply 'dropping off' as lane was intended.
- Intersections of Main Street / Rainey Drive and Main Street and Spruyt Avenue are being parked within 15-meter threshold.
- Parents / Guardians bypassing Crossing guard for quicker drop off / pick up (J-walking across Main Street).

Recommended Actions are as follows:

1. Turning the existing Drop off lane to a school bus lane between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30-3:30.
2. Making the fire hydrants more visible with signage / painted hash marks on the area directly north of the hydrant.
3. Initiated time slots for age / grade groups.
4. Extending drop off lane west to 35 Rainey drive (stopping directly before existing fire hydrant).
5. Changing drop-off lane to 15-minute parking.
6. Eliminating parking on north side of Rainey Drive until west of 35 Rainey Drive.
7. Painting lines in existing drop off lane / 15-minute parking / bus lane / kiss & ride lane.
8. Remove parking from one side of Spruyt.
9. Adding crossing guard to north entrance of school.
10. Designating the north side of Grand Valley Community Centre parking lot for Grand Valley and District Public School teachers, administration and support staff.
11. Installing a centralized electronic / lit cross walk in addition to or in place of existing crossing guard and relocate current crossing guard.

Financial Implications

Depending on the solution or combination of solutions selected, potential costs could include staffing of an additional crossing guard, changes to infrastructure (painting of additional crosswalk or extending the drop off lane) and altering, replacing or adding of signage.

Report

Background

Parking Issues around Grand Valley and District Public School

By-law Enforcement has been actively trying to improve the flow of traffic, public safety and parking situation during drop-off and pick-up times at Grand Valley and District Public School. Town staff became aware of the issue after receiving multiple complaints from residents that live in the area as well as from parents / guardians who are conducting the drop-offs and pickups. The school is located at the corner of Main Street North and Rainey Drive. Currently there is a drop off lane on the South side of Rainey that is being used as parking spaces and not a drop off lane as intended (leaving vehicles parked / unattended while walking child to around fence to school doors). This coincides with No Parking signage in the area often being ignored, parking within 15 meters of intersections, parking in front of fire hydrants and ultimately causing further traffic congestion during drop off and pick up times.

Discussion

Upon receiving complaints from the community, By-law Enforcement monitored the area during the problematic times. It was confirmed that traffic and parking have become so congested during pick up and drop off times that should there be an emergency or if a larger vehicle needed to get through the traffic, it would be problematic from approximately 2:50PM to 3:05PM.

Parents and guardians were also previously using 111 Main Street North apartments' parking lot for pick up and drop offs as it is a convenient location. However, they were trespassing on private property to do so, and Property Management from the building reached out to the Town looking for support providing parking enforcement. Property Management signed up for the Parking Enforcement on Private Property By-law to give By-law Enforcement the authority to enforce parking within the parking lot. This area has improved significantly since and is being used far less during the drop-off and pick-up times.

On November 28th, 2025, Town Staff coordinated a meeting with staff from the Upper Grand District School Board in an effort to collaborate and address the issue. Town staff provided a number of solutions to board staff but were not encouraged by the response. Staff believe this is a school board issue as the school's infrastructure has not changed for the size of the school population, and the board seems to be leaving the issue for the Town to address. During the meeting with the Board, the Town was advised by the school principal that he previously had brought the idea forward of providing a gate along the fence on Rainey Drive to the school board; however he was denied said request.

Town staff was also advised by the transportation service that less buses are likely to be used in the future, which will further exacerbate the issue. This reduction of bussing will trigger the need for a crossing guard for students to cross Amaranth Street at either Main Street intersection or Mayberry Drive intersection. Staff requested data from the transportation service so a discussion regarding crossing guards could take place.

Upon confirming the legitimacy of the complaints, and after meeting with School Board representatives, By-law Enforcement took the first step in providing public education and posting a parking reminder on Grand Valley's Social Media outlets. They also issued pre-made warnings, to be distributed on vehicles parked in violation. The pre-printed warnings were not well received from some community members with a petition being started and gaining some traction (just under 100 supporters on change.org) and several emails and letters being sent to Town Hall and council communicating their frustration.

While there has been some improvement upon issuing the warnings along Rainey Drive, Spruyt Avenue is now becoming an issue as there is currently parking permitted on both sides of the street causing further congestion. Depending on the size of vehicles, they can block access to larger vehicles such as an ambulance, fire truck or snow plow, similarly to Rainey Drive.

At the January 13th, 2026 council meeting, council resolution 2026-01-05 was passed that stated

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the public question regarding School Parking from Nathan Durham AND FURTHER THAT Town staff and the Mayor write to MPP to address issues regarding parking at the school, draft a response to Nathan Durham acknowledging receipt of his letter and that we are working with the school board to resolve the issue as it is a school board issue, staff are directed to ticket anybody parked illegally and that staff bring back parking by-law recommendations.

Upon being given the above direction from Council, By-law Enforcement reviewed Traffic and Parking By-law 2019-72. By-law Enforcement found that the north side of Rainey Drive was signed appropriately; however, when the signage was posted, the No Parking schedule of the By-Law was not amended. By-law Enforcement does not currently have authority under the By-law to issue parking tickets in this area, until the by-law is amended. In addition, there is no mention of the drop off zone on the south side of Rainey Drive within the by-law. The drop off zone is often used as a parking lot and often, there are vehicles blocking the fire hydrant next to drop off zone. Upon consulting with Grand Valley Fire Prevention, By-law Enforcement was advised that *'From a Fire Department perspective hydrant access is only a concern when cars are left parked and unattended. If parents remain standing (idling and present) in the drop off lane, we are not concerned'*.

Staff are hopeful Upper Grand District School Board will accept responsibility and address their lack of sufficient infrastructure (parking for teachers, support staff, parents and visitors) in place to support such a school population. Staff will continue to connect with representatives on the issue.

Recommendations

Given the school board's lack of response and urgency to this ongoing issue to date, the Town is proactively presenting recommendations for a palatable solution to address the issues raised. To effectively mitigate this issue along with the general parking congestion around the school By-law Enforcement recommends:

1. Turning the existing Drop off lane to a school bus lane between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30-3:30pm, and this lane can be additional school visitor parking between the mentioned hours. By changing the drop off lane to a designated bus lane, the school busses will no longer need to park directly in front of the school, freeing up the room for the school and its staff to set up a "kiss and ride" lane.

Changes Required: An amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2019-72, plus costing of signage and line painting.

2. Making the fire hydrants more visible with signage / painted hash marks on the area directly north of the hydrant to further deter parking in front of the hydrant.

Changes Required: Costing of additional signage / line painting and no by-law amendment.

3. Initiated time slots for age groups will keep traffic flowing and ensure high volumes of traffic will not be accessing the school lot / kiss and ride lane at the same time.
Changes Required: Cooperation from school staff, no by-law amendment.
4. Extending drop off lane west to 35 Rainey drive (stopping directly before existing fire hydrant) This will allow room for some vehicles to park behind the potential / bus lane, in addition to using the newly inputted “kiss and ride” lane.
Changes Required: An amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2019-72, plus costing of adjusting signage, changes in infrastructure (extending of drop off lane / altering curb)
5. Changing drop off lane to 15-minute parking.
Changes Required: An amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2019-72 and costing to change signage.
6. Eliminating parking on north side of Rainey Drive until west of 35 Rainey Drive.
Changes Required: An amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2019-72. No costing as signage is currently in place.
7. Painting lines in existing drop off lane / 15-minute parking / bus lane / kiss & ride lane to maximize the number of vehicles that can park (along with a no parking area in front of the noted fire hydrant beside existing drop off lane).
Changes Required: An amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2019-72 to change the existing drop off lanes use and costing for line painting
8. Remove parking from one side of Spruyt Avenue to ensure less congestion in area
Changes Required: An amendment to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2019-72 and costing of additional signage.
9. Adding crossing guard to north entrance of school to help eliminate ‘J’ walking.
Changes Required: Cost for training, payroll and benefits of an additional employee.
10. Designating the north side of Grand Valley Community Centre parking lot for Grand Valley and District Public School teachers, administration and support staff. This would free an area within the school parking lot for a coordinated kiss and ride lane.
Changes Required: Cooperation from school staff and costing for signage.
11. Installing a centralized electronic / lit cross walk-in place of existing crossing guard location. Current crossing guard could be relocated to other needed area, such as crossing Amaranth Street.
Changes Required: Costing of installation and maintenance of lit crosswalk.

All or combination of solutions may be needed, depending on the decision made. The School Board would need to provide staff members to support a “Kiss and Ride” Lane in either the existing drop off lane or on school property, depending on which solution Council proceeds with. The Town would need cooperation of the School Board to introduce a “Kiss and Ride” lane in any location as they would provide the staffing. Their cooperation from selected staff members would also be needed to agree to walk to and from the Grand Valley Community Center for parking should this be a selected solution.

Financial Impact

Depending on the solution or combination of solutions selected, potential costs could include staffing of an additional crossing guard, changes to infrastructure (painting of additional crosswalk or extending the drop off lane) and altering, replacing or adding of signage.

Consultations

Upper Grand District School Board Staff
Grand Valley and District Fire Prevention

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Map of Grand Valley & District Public School Current Layout
Attachment 2 - Map of Grand Valley & District Public School Recommended Improvements

This report was submitted by

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