



**Board Meeting Date: February 13, 2023**

**TITLE:** 8th grade French Immersion to Québec

**TYPE:** Action

**PRESENTERS:** Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Pierre Schmidt, Valley View French Immersion Teacher

**BACKGROUND:** In accordance with Policy 538, the following international student travel experience for up to 40 Valley View Middle School students from **June 4 – 10, 2024** has received support from the school's administration and been discussed at the Teaching and Learning Board Committee Meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Participating students will not miss any school days for this summer travel experience.

This trip, coordinated by EF Explore America, includes five nights and stays in both Montreal and Quebec City. In Montreal, students will get their bearings by exploring the Old City, visiting the hidden passages and secrets of the underground city, and taking a bicycle ride. They will examine the city through both historical and contemporary lenses by visiting the Museum of Archeology, Notre Dame Basilica, and the Old Port, as well as by touring McGill University and the bustling neighborhood of Chinatown. They'll travel on to beautiful Quebec City, where they will visit several historic sites such as Château Frontenac and the Citadelle. One of the highlights of the trip will be a reenactment of the Plains of Abraham, a battle from the Seven Years' War, sometimes referred to as the French and Indian War. Students will participate in this historical interpretation, learning about Quebec's First Nations and early colonial history. The group will conclude their trip with an excursion to the beautiful Beaupré Coast on the Saint Lawrence River.

In addition to providing opportunities to develop independence and self-awareness, this language and culture travel experience supports learning across numerous Minnesota social studies and language arts standards.

**COST:** The anticipated inclusive cost of this experience is \$2,100 per student. This price is inclusive of all transportation, accommodations, meals, transfers, on-site medical staffing, and medical and repatriation insurance. Students will be responsible for all costs. Need-based scholarships and fundraising opportunities are available.

**TRANSPORTATION:** All students and chaperones will travel as a group from Minneapolis to Montreal, Canada, and return via a major U.S. international airline or partner.

**ACCOMODATIONS:** Students and chaperones will be housed in 3-4 bedded rooms with en suite bathroom facilities.

**SUPERVISION:** Staff members traveling with the group are Pierre Schmidt, Nathalie Godin, and one licensed school administrator.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Discuss the student travel experience. It will be brought back to the board for action on 2.13.23.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR THE BOARD:** Review the background information provided and provide feedback on the student travel experience.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. [District Wide International Travel Schedule](#)
2. [Appendix III Board Policy 538 , Extended Field Trip and Travel Application Preliminary Approval](#)
3. [Insurance Information](#)