



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT

Board Meeting Date: May 15, 2024 Superintendent: David Valenzuela

Administrator/Staff: Jaime Szijarto

Type of Item: ☐ Informational ☒ Action

Please state your proposal briefly and clearly. What do you want the board to know, discuss, or decide?

I would like to take students to Barcelona and Paris in June of 2026 for 10-12 days. I will be going through EF Tours, a very well-known student travel company. EF Tours takes care of organizing our travel between cities, in addition to hotels and most meals. We will do fundraising for some of the costs, but students will have to pay for some on their own. I would like to start planning and saving ASAP. We will have one chaperone per 6 students.

Provide history/background information on your proposal:

In 2007, I took students to Mexico with two other chaperones. We toured the Yucatan for 9 days. The following year, another group of students traveled to Spain and France with different chaperones. It has been years, however, since our students have had the opportunity to travel abroad. This experience is invaluable, as we will visit museums, practice Spanish, get to try new foods, and just experience another way of living. Furthermore, the summer of 2026 is when the famous Sagrada Familia will finally be finished after over 100 years of construction!

List the advantages of your proposal:

Many of our students rarely have the opportunity to travel, and this would allow them to do so with a group of their peers, and even save money, as they will be able to fundraise for a portion of the cost. Students will be able to visit museums, try new foods, and be exposed to languages and cultures other than their own. We will also see famous museums, including the Louvre, and explore buildings with amazing architecture. This will be an experience of a lifetime for our students.

List possible disadvantages of your proposal:

As always, traveling with students, especially so far from home, is unpredictable. I do have experience, however, so this will be helpful. We will have set guidelines about going out, expectations for behavior, and ways for students to cope if they get homesick.

List possible alternatives that could also offer a solution to your proposal. Why were they not recommended?

While I could choose a closer or less-expensive destination, the finalizing of La Sagrada Familia in 2026 is exceptional, and my first choice.

Superintendent's recommendation(s):

Approve: Yes ☐ No ☐