



Board Workshop Date: 3/13/2023

TITLE: EHS Biology: Update Location from Dominica Approved Experience to Croatia

TYPE: Discussion

PRESENTERS: Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching and Learning; and Jenn Carter, Edina High School Assistant Principal

BACKGROUND: In accordance with Policy 538, the following international student travel experience for up to 32 Edina High School students for two weeks in July - August 2024 has received support from the school's administration, has been discussed at the Teaching and Learning Board Committee Meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, and was approved by the School Board on January 9, 2023. Since board approval the Dominica experience is no longer available. It is no longer available because the cost of the travel experience has gone up substantially since the original quote was obtained. Operation Wallacea has pulled the Dominica experience from their offerings due to this cost increase and the lack of attainability for families to pay for it. Operation Wallacea has offered Croatia as an alternative location. Participating students will not miss any school days for this summer travel experience taking place from July 18 - July 31, 2024.

This expedition to Croatia is coordinated by Operation Wallacea, a conservation organization that partners with scientists and local communities in conservation research. The structure of the expedition is the same as detailed in the Dominica expedition with two weeks, first week terrestrial and the next week marine. First week will be a terrestrial week in Krka National Park near Split, Croatia. Students will focus on surveys including bats, herpetofauna, birds, invertebrates, cave surveys, freshwater fish, terrapins and tortoises. The second week, students transfer from Krka National Park to Zadar, Croatia. From Zadar, students take a ferry to Silba island to spend their marine week. At the marine site, students will take an Adriatic ecology course and earn their open-water scuba certification.

COST: The anticipated inclusive cost of this experience is approximately \$4,469 per student. The cost difference from the Dominica travel experience is \$750 more. 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. There will be need-based

scholarships and other scholarships offered. There will also be extensive fundraising opportunities.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Students and chaperones will be housed in dormitories with en suite bathroom facilities.

SUPERVISION: Staff members traveling with the group are Lindsey Smaka, EHS science teacher, and up to three (3) additional licensed staff, one of which will be a licensed school administrator.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss the student travel experience and proposed change in location.

DESIRED OUTCOMES FOR THE BOARD: Review the report, the background information provided, the proposed change and provide feedback on the student travel experience in addition to next steps in the process.

ATTACHMENT:

1. [Dominica 2024 Board Meeting Approval Report](#)
1. [District Wide International Travel Schedule](#)
2. [EHS Comprehensive Travel Schedule](#)
3. [Appendix III Board Policy 538 , Extended Field Trip and Travel Application Preliminary Approval](#)
4. General Information to find [Insurance Information](#)
5. [Operation Wallace Croatia Expedition](#)
6. [Croatia Expedition School Book](#)