

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS  
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

**DATE: MAY 18, 2015**

**TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FROM: DR. JIM HESS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**SUBJECT: FIELD TRIP REQUEST – BEMIDJI HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL  
SPEECH COMPETITION**

**COMMENTS:**

Three Bemidji High School students, Amber Rassler, Elizabeth Sorenson, and Aanika Sletta, earned bids to compete in the National Catholic Forensics League Grand National Tournament over Memorial Day weekend 2015. Students were offered bids based upon their high level of performance on the Bemidji High School speech team throughout the 2015 season.

School Board approval is requested for the Bemidji High School Speech trip request:

<b>Destination:</b>	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
<b>Departure Date:</b>	Leave for Minneapolis on 5/21/15, Fly out of Minneapolis airport on 5/22/15
<b>Return Date:</b>	5/25/15
<b>Cost/Funding:</b>	\$3,500 – Parents, Donations, GoFundMe through Booster Club, Fundraiser
<b>Number of Students:</b>	3
<b>Number of Staff/Adults:</b>	1-2
<b>Objective of Field Trip:</b>	

Students will increase their public speaking skills from a level of MSHSL competition to a level of National competition through small group instruction in category differences, rule differences, and tournament differences.

**District Curriculum Standards/Outcomes/Building Goals addressed through this proposed field trip:**

This field trip addresses Bemidji Area Schools Aim 1 Goals A and D. Two students were challenged to read, digest, and cut material to a 10 minute piece. One student maintained a high level of reading non-fiction material to increase her competitive ability to write and perform a speech responding to international current event prompts in 30 minutes. The BHS speech team works to keep students engaged in schooling and progressing to graduation. Students involved in the BHS speech team, regardless of ethnicity or special education needs, graduate at a level higher than the stated goal...historically 100%.