



South St. Paul School Board - Work Session

Monday, February 23, 2026 5:00 PM

CITY HALL, 125 THIRD AVENUE NORTH, South St Paul, Minnesota 55075

I. EDUCATION SERVICES

I.A. Out of the Country Field Trips 2026 (A. Winter)

II. SCHOOL BOARD

II.A. Resolution Regarding District Practices Related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. (Board)

II.B. 2026-27 Student School Board Representative Process (L. Brandecker)

II.C. Public Relations and Community Engagement (Board)

II.D. Committee Updates (Board)

- District 917
- AMSD
- Community Education
- Educational Foundation
- Finance, Facilities and Long-Range Planning
- Local Issues
- Policy
- SSP Open Foundation
- Superintendent Executive

II.E. Other Items Deemed Necessary by the School Board

Date: February 23, 2026

Place on Agenda: Regular Meeting

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: Field Trip Applications (France and Costa Rica)

Topic: High School International France Trip
Presenter(s): Amy Winter, Executive Director of Educational Service
<p>Background:</p> <p>In accordance with Board Policy 610, out-of-the-country field trips require preliminary approval one year prior to travel and final approval one month prior to departure. Preliminary approval for both trips was granted by the School Board on December 9, 2024. Here are the trip details that are now being presented for final approval.</p> <p>High School French Trip – France and Monaco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates: March 25 – April 3, 2026 • Participants: 27 students, 4 chaperones • Trip Leader: Sara Voss, High School French Teacher <p>Students will travel to southern France, including Nice, Monaco, and Avignon, and continue to Lyon, the Loire Valley, Chartres, Versailles, and Paris. The experience is designed to provide students with direct language immersion and firsthand cultural experiences aligned with their high school French coursework. Students will explore historical landmarks, engage in authentic cultural activities, and strengthen their proficiency through real-world application of language skills.</p> <p>High School Spanish Trip – Costa Rica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates: March 27 – April 5, 2026 • Participants: 25 students, 3 chaperones • Trip Leader: Tyler LaRose, High School Spanish Teacher <p>Students will travel to Costa Rica for an immersive educational experience focused on language development and cultural understanding. The itinerary includes eco-tourism activities, cultural experiences, and an exchange with a local high school. Students will participate in Spanish-based activities designed to strengthen language proficiency and deepen their understanding of the culture they study in class.</p>
Recommendation: Administration Recommends the Approval of both field trips.
Alternatives: Do not approve and direct administration with next steps.



**South St. Paul Public Schools
Special School District #6**

OUT-OF-THE-COUNTRY FIELD TRIP APPLICATION

Sponsoring Activity French Classes (students in grades 10-12)
 Sponsoring Staff Sara Voss March 25 - April 3, 2026
 Field Trip Date(s) Spring Break 2026 Number of class days missed 2 (if needed)
 Destination France (and Monaco)
 Estimated # of Students ~~20~~ 27 Estimated # of Chaperones ~~2-3~~ 4
 Mode of Transportation Plane / Bus Flight Arrangements (If applicable) n/a (at this time)
 Hotel Accommodations (name/address/phone) T.B.D.
 Reservations under what name EF Tours

Field Trip Information

Program Description We will travel to France to tour the South (Nice, Monaco, Avignon) then to Lyon, the Loire Valley, Chartres, Versailles, and finally Paris.

Educational Objective Students will see many parts of the country, be exposed to culture and language first hand!

Arrangements for Non-Participating Students N/A

Method of Payment
 Cost to Students \$3,959 - (\$200 less for early app.)
 Cost to District 2 sub days per chaperone
 (specify dept. budget and other funding sources)
 Other (specify funding source) none

Signature of Sponsoring Staff Sara Voss
Signature of Principal/Activities Director [Signature]
Signature of Superintendent [Signature]
Signature of Board Chair [Signature]

WE'RE GOING TO...



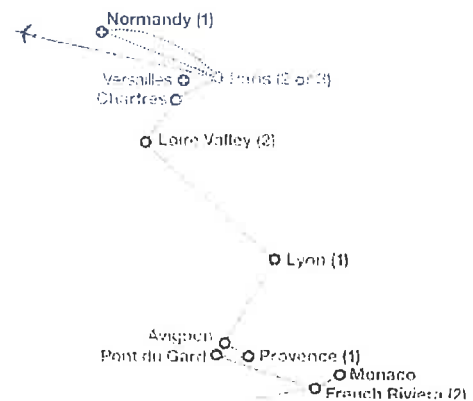
Paris, the Loire & the Riviera

Spring 2026 / 10 Days / Group Leader: Sara Voss
svoss@sspss.org



Details of the trip:

- The trip is 10 days
- The requested departure date is March ~~27~~²⁵ 2026 but the trip could depart as early as March 16, 2026 and return as late as ~~March 27, 2026~~^{April 3, 2026}
- There are limited spots available on this trip.
- For more information about security, what is included in the trip, how to obtain academic credit and the Global Citizens scholarship visit the [Parent Guide](#).



The price:

- The student price for this trip is \$3,959
- The adult price for this trip is \$4,779
- Biweekly and monthly payment plans are available without interest. See the [Parent Guide](#) for more information.

****By enrolling now travelers will receive a \$200 discount off their tour price**

How to enroll:

- Enroll at www.eftours.com/2791249UM or scan the QR code below:



- The enrollment deadline is December 1, 2024
- Enroll now and take advantage of EF's Risk-Free Enrollment period

If you have any questions, please call the Traveler Support Team at 800-665-5364



**South St. Paul Public Schools
Special School District #6**

OUT-OF-THE-COUNTRY FIELD TRIP APPLICATION

Sponsoring Activity Spanish Department
 Sponsoring Staff Tyler LaRose March 27 - April 5, 2026
 Field Trip Date(s) Spring Break 2026 Number of class days missed 2 - Th + Fri before
 Destination Costa Rica
 Estimated # of Students 25 Estimated # of Chaperones 3
 Mode of Transportation Plane / Bus Flight Arrangements (If applicable) TBD - EF Tours
 Hotel Accommodations (name/address/phone) Various cities - San Jose, La Fortuna, Alajuela
 Reservations under what name Tyler LaRose - South St. Paul HS - EF Tours

Field Trip Information

Program Description 10-day trip to Costa Rica - Sight-seeing; Eco-Tourism; cultural exchange with a local high school; Spanish-language-based activities

Educational Objective Spanish-language with native speakers, cultural engagement. Students will complete guided reflections during the trip.

Arrangements for Non-Participating Students A substitute teacher for the Thursday & Friday prior to Spring Break '26

Method of Payment
 Cost to Students \$3,979
 Cost to District Substitute Teacher daily rate
 (specify dept. budget and other funding sources)
 Other (specify funding source) _____

Signature of Sponsoring Staff Tyler LaRose
Signature of Principal/Activities Director [Signature]
Signature of Superintendent [Signature]
Signature of Board Chair [Signature]

Now that your tour's getting closer, are there any itinerary-related questions I can answer? Don't hesitate to ask.



Lindsey Lewis

 [GET IN TOUCH](#)

Travel Dates

2026

MAR 25	MAR 27	APR 5
Earliest departure	Requested departure	Requested return

Departing from

Minneapolis (MN)

Flights & Hotels

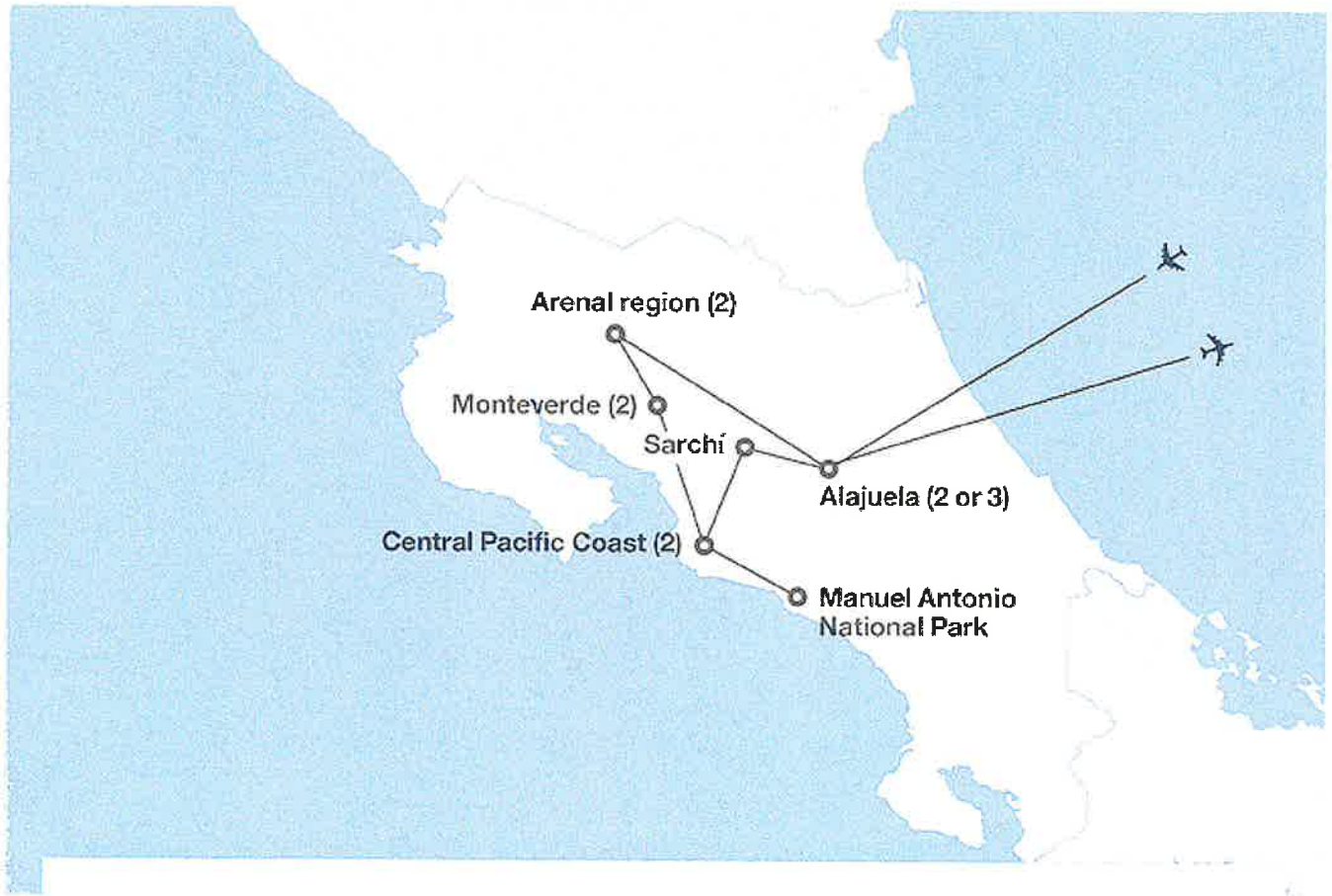
We'll post details here as soon as they're available.



Travel Requirements



All travelers must adhere to entry and on-tour requirements while traveling. [View the travel requirements](#) for your specific itinerary now.



Meet your Tour

Take a tour of a

DAY 1

Fly to Costa Rica

Travel to the Ar

Visit Arenal Volc

Enjoy a kayakir

Visit La Fortuna Waterfall

Participate in a cultural exchange with locals

Visit the Arenal hot springs

Travel to Monteverde



Local food workshop

Try your hand at creating some of Costa Rica's culinary specialties during a visit to a local working mill. You'll make—and sample—tortillas, artisanal coffee, and juice extracted from sugar cane. (Just save room for *sobado*, a candy made from the sugar cane plant.)

Experience the thrill of a ziplining adventure through the Costa Rican canopy (*For safety reasons, weight and size restrictions may apply*)

Visit the Santa Elena Cloud Forest

Travel to the Central Pacific Coast

Visit the Rainforest Adventure Park, where you will:

- Ride an aerial tram above the canopies
- Explore a nature trail
- Visit a butterfly sanctuary

Enjoy a crocodile safari boat cruise

Visit Manuel Antonio National Park

Travel via Sarchí to Alajuela

Explore on your own or add this in-depth excursion:



Folklore evening



Enjoy a whitewater rafting excursion



School Board Agenda Item

Date: February 23, 2026

Place on Agenda: Work Session and Business Meeting

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: Resolution Regarding District Practices Related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Topic: Resolution Regarding District Practices Related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Presenter(s): Kim Humann, Board Chair
Background: Board Chair Kim Humann is bringing forward a resolution regarding District practices related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the Board's review, discussion, and possible approval. The resolution reaffirms South St. Paul Schools' commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students and families, regardless of immigration status, and establishes clear expectations for how the District will respond to immigration enforcement matters while maintaining its educational mission.
Recommendation: Approve
Alternatives: Do not approve and direct administration with next steps.



RESOLUTION REGARDING DISTRICT PRACTICES RELATED TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, South St. Paul Public Schools (SSPPS) is committed to the success of every student in every SSPPS school, and that our mission is to enable students to reach their full potential and to prepare them for post-secondary careers, college and community life; and

WHEREAS, South St. Paul Public Schools is committed to the physical safety and emotional well-being of all students within its control, and is committed to ensuring that all schools and district facilities are welcoming and safe places for students and their families; and

WHEREAS, It is not the mission, purpose or role of the South St. Paul Public Schools to determine the citizenship or immigration status of any of its students or families, nor to enforce federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, South St. Paul Public Schools has adopted policies ensuring the provision of equal educational opportunities to all enrolled students, regardless of their immigration status, national origin, or language; and

WHEREAS, South St. Paul Public Schools believes that it is in the best interests of the students, staff, families and community of South St. Paul that it takes action to assure all students and families that disruptions to the educational environment that Immigration and Customs Enforcement actions may create shall not be tolerated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul Public Schools, shall adopt procedures and practices that assure the following:

That unless specifically required by law, board members, district employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives will not use District resources solely for the purposes of detecting or assisting in the apprehension of persons whose only violation of law is or may be being an undocumented resident in the United States, or failing to produce documents authorizing residency in the United States.

That board members, district employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives shall refrain from inquiring about a student's or parent's immigration status;

That board members, district employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives shall refrain from requiring any student or parent to produce documentation regarding immigration status;

That board members, district employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives shall not, unless compelled by a valid court order, by law or subsequent to receiving a signed release, disclose to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers any information about a student's or family's immigration status;

That board members, district employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives shall require any ICE personnel wishing to enter any District property to first notify the Superintendent and District General Counsel in advance of such entry and provide proper written authority to enter District property, and

That board members, district employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives shall refrain from referring students and parents with questions about their immigration status to ICE.

That board members, district employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives shall continue to assure that all students have access to the learning and other educational services available at their schools, including rigorous courses, student extracurricular activities and athletics, and support services regardless of the student's or family's immigration status.

Adopted February 23, 2026

Signed by:

Kim Humann, School Board Chair

Date

Wendy Felton, School Board Clerk

Date



School Board Agenda Item

Date: February 23, 2026

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion only.

Attachment: 2025-26 Student Board Representative Application Packet

Topic: 2026 Student School Board Representative Process
Presenter(s): Board Chair Kim Humann and Lisa Brandecker, Manager of Administrative Services and Communications
Background: <p>The purpose of this agenda item is for the School Board to review the current Student School Board Representative process and provide direction for the 2026–27 school year. With the application window opening on April 6, this discussion will help ensure the process aligns with the Board’s priorities moving forward.</p> <p>Over the past academic year, Student School Board Representatives have played an important role in bringing student perspective into Board governance, strengthening the connection between the Board and the student body.</p> <p>This year, bi-weekly meetings with the student representatives, the Manager of Administrative Services and Communications, and Board Chair Kim Humann were held to review upcoming agendas, identify opportunities for student voice, prepare student reports, and discuss ongoing projects.</p> <p>As the District continues to build this initiative, it is important to reflect on what is working well and where adjustments may be needed.</p> <p>On Monday evening, Board members and student representatives will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review successes and challenges from the past year• Identify areas for improvement• Discuss potential updates to the 2026–27 representative structure and process <p>Following Board discussion and direction, staff will finalize the 2026–27 Student School Board Representative application and selection process. Applications will open on April 6.</p>
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

APPLY NOW!

South St. Paul
Public Schools



STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Application deadline 11:59 pm April 18



One of the most important voices is that of our SSP students. Through this exciting leadership learning opportunity, a student school board representative will be selected to serve as the critical voice between our student body and the SSPPS School Board.



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

or visit: www.sspps.org/about/school-board/members/student-representative

RESPONSIBILITIES



Provide input and share student perspectives, participate in special projects



Attend all regular board meetings and work sessions during the school year.
www.sspps.org/about-us/school-board/meetings



Report on student activities, topics, and insights



STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Application Process and Roles/Responsibilities

Purpose

As a part of its strategic vision, the South St. Paul School Board has made it a priority to increase opportunities to include stakeholder voices in their work. One of the most important voices is that of our South St. Paul Public School's students. Through this opportunity, Student Board Representatives will serve as the liaison between the School Board and our students. They will work closely with the South St. Paul School Board to provide input and share their student perspectives.

Qualifications

- Must be a junior or senior at South St. Paul Secondary or the SSP Community Learning Center that is enrolled for the upcoming school year.
- The student representative will have an interest in the work of the School Board and South St. Paul School District.

Expectations

- The student representatives will serve as the liaison between the South St. Paul School Board and the students of South St. Paul Public Schools, Special School District 6.
- Will adhere to the same rules and procedures as other School Board members, including but not limited to confidentiality agreements.
- Dress for business casual.
- Participate in discussions at committee and board meetings.
- Maintain personal standards of behavior appropriate to participation in student activities.
- Be in good academic standing equivalent for participation in athletics or other school activities and maintain good academic standing throughout their term.
- Provide a report to the board at each meeting that provides student activities, topics, and insights to share with the board.
- Student representatives may be asked to work on specific projects throughout their term.
- Participate in bi-weekly meetings to review the upcoming meeting agendas, prepare for the Student School Board Representative meeting report, and discuss project assignments.

Attendance

- Attend all Board work sessions and regular business meetings, which occur while school is in session. Work sessions and business meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Monday of each month beginning at 5:00 PM and generally concluding by 8:00 PM. Attendance at meetings held during the summer or school breaks are not required but encouraged.
- Attend special meetings or study sessions as requested.
- Students will not attend closed sessions.



Voting Rights

- The student representative will serve as an ex-officio member of the South St. Paul School Board, thus not have official voting rights. However, the student board representative may participate in all discussions before the official vote by the Board.

Application Submission – No later than 11:59 PM on Friday, April 18, 2025.

An open application process will be held for a one-year term on the School Board beginning the following school year. Student Board representatives serving in their junior year of high school may apply to serve a second term for their senior year.

1. Submit an electronic copy of the [Student School Board Representative Application](#)
2. Email to Lisa Brandecker, Manager of Administrative Services and Communications at lbrandecker@sspps.org.
 - a. A signed [Parent/Guardian Authorization form](#)
 - b. A letter of reference from a SSPPS teacher, activity advisor or athletic coach

Application Deadline

The application and application components listed above must be completed and submitted **no later than 11:59 PM on Friday, April 18, 2025.**

Selection Process

Applicants will be contacted by Thursday, April 24 to select an interview time for Friday, May 2. Applicants will be interviewed by the SSP High School Principal, Superintendent of Schools, and one School Board member. Selection of two student representatives will be completed by mid-May so the students may meet with the School Board prior to the end of the school year.

Questions

Please contact Lisa Brandecker, at lbrandecker@sspps.org or (651) 457-9465 with any questions.



STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT

The undersigned parent/guardian of _____, states as follows: *(student name)*

My student has my consent to file the foregoing application and to serve, if appointed, as the nonvoting student member of the South St. Paul School Board for the 2025-26 school year. I make this consent based on my assessment of my child's interest in serving on the board and their ability to participate in board activities without harmful effect to their academic achievement. I understand that I may withdraw my consent, in writing, at any time that I determine that membership on the School Board is contrary to my child's best interests.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Phone Number AND Email of Parent/Guardian



School Board Agenda Item

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Public Relations and Community Engagement
Presenter(s): School Board
Background: The School Board will review the upcoming Calendar of Events and explore opportunities to collaborate with students, staff, families, and the greater South St. Paul community to further the district's mission and vision.
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

**ENGAGE. EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.**



School Board Agenda Item

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Committee Updates
Presenter(s): School Board Members
Background: School Board members will provide an update for the following committees that they serve on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● District 917● AMSD● Community Education● Educational Foundation● Finance, Facilities, and Long-Range Planning● Local Issues● Policy● SSP Open Foundation● Superintendent Executive
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

**ENGAGE. EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.**