



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC AGENDA ITEM No. 2 February 26, 2020

MATERIAL FOR NEW ACTION ITEM:

8. ACTION ITEMS

- 8.9 Okanagan Mission Secondary School (OKM) Band Field Study through Europe**
(Attachment)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Board of Education cancel the Okanagan Mission Secondary School Band Field Study through Europe that was scheduled to take place March 8-21, 2020.



Memorandum

Date: February 24, 2020
To: Board of Education
From: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Action Item: **Okanagan Mission Secondary School (OKM) Band Field Study through Europe**

1.0 ISSUE STATEMENT

In light of current events, District staff are concerned about students' travel on the OKM Band Field Study experience through Europe due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Students and chaperones are scheduled to travel from Canada to Germany, to Austria, to Slovenia, to Croatia, to Bosnia, back to Croatia and on to Italy before returning to Canada.

2.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Policy 525: Field Studies – Curricular and Extra-Curricular states, "*The Board may cancel or modify a field study approved in accordance with this policy and regulations when unforeseen events occur*". Policy 525: Field Studies – Curricular and Extra-Curricular is attached as Appendix A.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Italian authorities announced sweeping closures on February 24, 2020, in the country's north as they scramble to contain Europe's biggest outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

Italy's confirmed cases surged from three on Friday morning to 219 by Monday. Italy's spike now marks the biggest outbreak outside of Asia. Five people have died and at least 219 others have been infected with the virus in Italy, Angelo Borrelli, head of the country's Civil Protection agency, said at a Monday news conference. The bulk of the cases (167) are in the northern region of Lombardy, whose capital is the city of Milan.

Strict emergency measures were put in place over the weekend, including a ban on public events in at least 10 municipalities, after a spike in confirmed cases in the northern regions of Lombardy and Veneto.

Italy's Health Minister Roberto Speranza announced severe restrictions in the affected regions, which included the closure of public buildings, limited transport, and the surveillance and quarantine of individuals who may have been exposed to the virus.

Nearby countries within the borderless Schengen Area that covers most of Western Europe have gotten jittery over the spike in Italy's numbers. Austrian, Slovenian and Croatian authorities said they would study the situation and analyze if border controls with Italy were necessary.

4.0 POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Travel insurance will mitigate costs for families should the Board of Education cancel this trip due to the unforeseen health risks cited above.

5.0 OPTIONS FOR ACTION

1. Support the recommendation.
2. Delay a decision until closer to the departure date of March 8, 2020.
3. Support the field study moving forward as scheduled.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Safety of students and chaperones participating in this field study is our primary concern. There is too much uncertainty surrounding this field study's travel itinerary.

7.0 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Board of Education cancel the Okanagan Mission Secondary School Band Field Study through Europe that was scheduled to take place March 8 - 21, 2020.

8.0 APPENDIX

- A. Policy 525: Field Studies – Curricular and Extra-Curricular
- B. OKM Europe Band Field Study Itinerary
- C. Letter to Partners - International Education



Section Five: Instructional Programs

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525 – FIELD STUDIES – CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Introduction

The Board of Education believes that field studies can have educational value if they:

- are relevant to the prescribed BC curriculum; or
- directly address career exploration or the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of students.

The Board may cancel or modify a field study approved in accordance with this policy and regulations when unforeseen events occur.

Policy

1. The Board believes field studies should supplement the curricular or extra-curricular programs and as they may utilize time from the instructional day, the public must be assured that the field studies:
 - are directly related to the tasks the school is expected to perform (given the limited instructional time in the school year);
 - have educational benefits that outweigh any time loss from school;
 - have been planned to achieve specific educational goals.
2. Most field studies can be accomplished without extended travel and overnight stays. The objectives of the curriculum should be addressed, where appropriate, without extended travel/overnight stays.
3. Education is a partnership involving the school and the home. In order to ensure that there is strong parental support for field studies being planned, the Board directs that:
 - 3.1 Informed consent forms for each student must be completed for every field study to ensure that parents are aware of the activity (including thorough descriptions of the study, transportation, any inherent risks, any unusual or potential hazards and the possible consequences) and are supportive of the student’s participation.



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- 3.2 For a field study that has volunteer and staff drivers using private vehicles, each driver must complete Form 525.3 – Transportation of Central Okanagan Public Schools Students Vehicle Use and Authorized Driver's Statements, prior to transporting students on the field study.
- 3.3 Students that transport themselves in a private vehicle must complete Form 525.4 – Student Using Vehicle for Field Studies – Curricular and Extra-Curricular, and comply with the requirements as outlined on the Form. The BC Schools Protection Program (SPP) does not recommend the use of student volunteer drivers due to their limited driving experience. Therefore, a student is not permitted to drive other students to and from school field studies and extra-curricular activities during school hours.
- 3.4 There shall be five levels of field studies, depending upon the activities to be undertaken. For definitions of levels and requirements for each level, refer to Regulations 525R - Field Studies – Curricular and Extra-Curricular. For a listing of field studies activities subject to restrictions and those which are prohibited, refer to Appendix 525A - Field Studies Activities.
- 3.5 For field studies levels four and five, parents must be consulted well in advance of any study planning taking place with the students. Studies must be planned well in advance to ensure educational purposes, parental support and safety issues are addressed.
- 3.6 Schools must be extremely sensitive to the financial burden and the potential conflict between parents and students by possible expensive field studies; the ability of students to pay their share of the costs must not be a factor in determining participation. School personnel must ensure that financial requirements do not exclude students from participation on a field study. For further information, see Regulation 425R - Student Fees, Section 8 - Financial Hardship.
- 3.7 For all studies, an appropriate medical response plan must be in place.
4. The Board recognizes that these educational experiences require many additional hours of staff time, and affirms staff for organizing these studies while ensuring they are relevant to the curriculum and enhance learning opportunities for students.



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5. If free travel tickets are provided as a result of bulk ticket purchases, the benefits must be shared by all those involved in the study and not taken solely by a supervisor or chaperone.
6. The Board neither approves nor sanctions any studies which are organized as vacations. The Board recognizes that there are some businesses which promote student travel and offer incentives of free airline tickets to adult supervisors who accompany students. If such studies occur, they are outside any recognized activity of the school district and the Board accepts no responsibility.
7. The school district will endeavour to provide an annual budget for extra-curricular activities.
8. The school district and school codes of conduct will apply to all field studies.

Date Agreed: April 23, 1980

Date Amended: February 13, 1985; October 26, 1994;
September 16, 1998;

Date Amended/Reviewed: November 13, 2002

Date Amended: June 9, 2004; October 27, 2004; January 26, 2011
June 24, 2015; February 27, 2019

Related Documents: 525R, 525A, Field Study Forms

MARIDEN MUSIC TOURS

YOUR GROUP TRAVEL EXPERTS SINCE 1991



OKM Concert Tour Croatia 2020

Inclusions:

- Motor coach ride Kelowna-Vancouver-Kelowna
- Round trip airfare: Vancouver-Munich and Rome-Vancouver
- airport taxes based on present fees
- all transfers as per program
- 10 buffet breakfasts
- 10 dinners
- 9 nights accommodation in hotels
- 1 night on ferry (accommodation in quad cabins)
- 5 concerts
- tours of: Salzburg, Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik
- Rome panoramic tour
- all inclusive insurance
- gratuities
- Mariden multilingual tour director

Not included: rent of the music instruments, lunches and new Rome hotel tax (euro 4), to be paid on spot.



Day-1. March 8, Sunday: 15,00, Motor coach ride from OKM school to Vancouver. Overnight at hotel.

Day-2. March 9. Monday: AC #106 YVR-YYZ: 08,00-15,21 / AC 846 Toronto-Munich 19,55. Early breakfast and transfer to the airport. and your flight to Toronto with connection to trans Atlantic flight to Germany

Day-3. March 10, Tuesday: MUNICH-BLED: Arrival Munich at 09,50 and Motor coach ride to Salzburg. Upon arrival guided walking tour of one of music capitals of the world, site of the "Sound of Music", and birth place of Mozart, including Mozart, Square, the Cathedral, and Mirabell Gardens. View Hohensalzburg Fortress before we continue to Lake Bled IN Slovenia for overnight.

Day-4. March 11, Wednesday: BLED-ZAGREB: Early morning departure toward Croatia. Afternoon arrival Zagreb and check in at your hotel located on the main square. Later guided walking tour of Croatian Capital including St. Stephens Cathedral, Old Town, St. Mark's Square, Lotrscak Tower and Ilica, the main artery of the city.

Day-5. March 12, Thursday: ZAGREB-CONCERTS: Free time before walk to Croatian Concert Hall (walking distance from your hotel) for rehearsal. At 13,00 OKM concert and additional performance with Croatian Young musicians from Titus Brezovacki high school. Some free time before walk to the Old Town for evening concert in St. Katharine's Church.

Day-6. March 13, Friday: ZAGREB-MEDJUGORJE: Early morning departure Zagreb for ride through Croatian countryside. En route stop for lunch break in Zadar the old Roman city known since 2nd AD (time permitting). Later, along the Dalmatian Coast, cross the Hercegovina border with arrival Medjugorje and your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day-7. March 14. Saturday: MOSTAR-MEDJUGORJE-CONCERT: Short ride to Mostar, old Ottoman city known by its unique bridge originally built in 14th century and today site of spectacular diving competition from platform over 27 metres above the river. Late afternoon ride to local school for rehearsal and evening concert. Later, "get together" party with local students, before late return to Medjugorje.

Day-8. March 15. Sunday: MEDJUGORJE-CONCERT- STON - DUBROVNIK: Free time in Medjugorje, before noon concert in the church. Then board the Motor coach for ride to Dalmatia Highway, to the town of Ston, to see "the Great Wall of Europe" once the protection for Republic of Ragusa". View the largest mussel plantation in Europe, and then along the seaside road to Dubrovnik and your four star hotel Valamar Lacroma. Relax at the hotel heated swimming pool before open buffet breakfast (eat as much as you like from the selection of over 70 hot dishes).

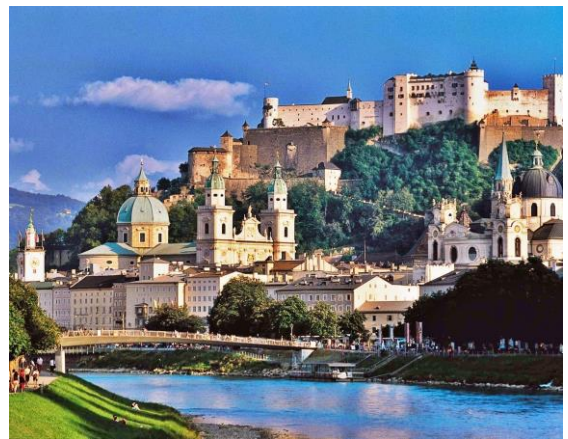
Day-9. March 16. Monday: DUBROVNIK-CONCERT: Transfer to Dubrovnik Old Town for walking tour of the "Pearl of Adriatic Sea", considered as the most beautiful walled town in Mediterranean. Then set up for 14,00 concert at stage of St. Blais, a regular spot for famous Dubrovnik Summer Games, and place where sequences of the TV Game of Thrones were filmed.

Day-10. March 17. Tuesday: DUBROVNIK: Relax day in Dubrovnik. Visit the Old Town on your own (car free town) or stay at the hotel swimming pool, or take the optional boat ride to Lokrum Island, or go for hunt on souvenirs at Stradun, the main artery of the city.

Day-11. March 18, Wednesday: DUBROVNIK - SPLIT - FERRY TO ITALY: Morning departure to Split, the largest coastal town in Croatia, birth place of Roman Emperor Diocletian. Walking tour of the central area, to see the Cathedral and the remain of Diocletian Place, the largest Roman Palace built in ancient time. Some free time at the market before we board the night ferry to Italy (quad cabins)

Day-12. March 19. Thursday: ANCONA - ROME: Morning arrival Ancona, and Motor coach ride through Umbria and Lazio Province to Rome. Arrival early afternoon, check in at your hotel, and join your tour director on walking tour to see the main sites of Ancient Rome like the Colosseum (outside), Arch of Constantine, Avenue of the Emperors with great view over the Forum, Capitoline Hill, Victor Emanuel Monument. End the day with visit to Trevi Fountain, one of symbols of Rome, where you can taste the best gelato in Italy.

Day-13. March 20. Friday: ROME -DEPARTURE: AC# 893 ROME-MONTREAL 11,00-14,55, and AC # 309 Montreal-Vancouver 18,30-21,06. Motor coach ride to Kelowna



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APPENDIX C

Sent as email to Partners through True North:

February 21, 2020

Dear Partners,

Greeting from the Central Okanagan. We are beginning to receive inquiries from our partners, families and students regarding student travel at spring break. The Central Okanagan International Program is strongly recommending that students do not travel home to, or through, countries that have been significantly impacted by novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We have been very fortunate to have extremely limited exposure to COVID-19 in our country with no cases reported to date the Central Okanagan and only 6 confirmed cases in British Columbia.

Our district is in regular communication with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and our local health authority to ensure students and families are kept informed regarding COVID-19. Our program and school staff, as well as our homestay families, are concerned about the present risk of travel for our students who are returning home or connecting through airports in cities where multiple cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed.

Students who choose to travel home may risk delays or denial of re-entry to Canada should the Canadian government restrict entry. Students also may experience mandatory quarantine at their own expense should the screening process escalate without notice. Delays or refusal of re-entry to Canada could jeopardize a student's academic year and impact their homestay placements.

Thank you for your support in communicating our recommendation to families regarding travel at spring break. Our staff and homestay families will continue to support students in order to ensure that they have an enjoyable spring break in Canada.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Raquel Steen
District Principal