

Motion Tabled June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 –

“waive the requirement to allow participation on international field trips by students who are unable to pay until such time as funding sources and procedures are in place to support this.” (which pertains to the underlined section of our policy)

**STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION 5000**

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM 5200**

**FIELD TRIPS 5215**

“The School Committee recognizes that firsthand learning experiences provided by field trips are an effective and worthwhile means of learning. It is the desire of the School Committee, therefore, to encourage field trips as part of and directly related to the total school program and curriculum. In keeping with the district wide curriculum, the School Committee envisions there will be general parity of experience across the district in this regard.

The School Committee also is aware that the cost of field trips can be a concern for families. Accordingly, it is the policy of the School Committee that for field trips that are attended by a majority of the students in a class, no student will be denied an opportunity to participate because of the financial inability of his/her family to pay the field trip fee. Moreover, it is the desire of the School Committee to encourage the administration to keep in mind the effect of the cost of field trips on families, and to consider the educational value of field trips in relation to their costs, as part of the field trip planning process.

Specific guidelines and appropriate administrative procedures shall be developed by the Superintendent to screen, evaluate and approve trips and to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken for the safety of the participants. The guidelines and procedures shall require, among other things, that all field trips have the prior approval of the Principal, and that all field trips involving late night or overnight travel, travel out of state or overnight stays have the prior approval of the Superintendent and the School Committee. Such approvals should be obtained before students engage in any fundraising activity in connection with field trips. Additionally, the guidelines and procedures shall be designed to ensure (1) that all trips contribute substantially to the educational program; (2) that all students have parental permission to attend field trips; and (3) that all trips are properly supervised and include precautions to protect the safety of students. The guidelines and procedures also must include plans to provide (1) reasonable accommodations for eligible students with disabilities to allow them to participate in field trips, (2) a means for fundraising and/or subsidizing the field trip cost for families deemed financially unable to pay, and (3) meaningful educational activities during the period of the field trip for students who do not participate and instead remain in school. Said guidelines and procedures shall be subject to the review and approval of the School Committee.

Overnight accommodations should be made in advance with safety and security in mind and, whenever possible, travel between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. should be avoided. Trip itineraries should leave enough time for drivers to rest in conformity with federal hours-of-service requirements and common sense. Trip schedulers should take into account the likelihood of delays due to weather, traffic and other unanticipated