

**APPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF A "CULTURAL IMMERSION EXCHANGE PROGRAM" BETWEEN THE  
FREDERICK A. DOUGLASS ACADEMY, THURGOOD MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL, YOUTH GUIDANCE  
SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY, AND COLLEGE HENRI-MATISSE (IN NICE, FRANCE) AND AUTHORIZE  
TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Approve the participation of Frederick A. Douglass Academy and Thurgood Marshall Middle School in a cultural immersion tour of Paris and Nice, France from February 4 – 14, 2001 and authorize travel expenses (if any), related to the program.

**USERS: Frederick A. Douglass Academy**  
543 N. Waller  
Chicago, Illinois 60644  
(773) 534-6176  
Dr. Betty F. Smith

**Thurgood Marshall Middle School**  
3900 N. Lawndale  
Chicago, Illinois 60618  
(773) 534-5200  
Mr. Jose C. Barillas

**PROGRAM:** Youth Guidance has had a formal relationship with the French since 1996, beginning with a visit to the program by French President Jacques Chirac. The French officials were interested in exploring innovative ways to respond to the needs of modern day students, most notably the issues of increased violence. Youth Guidance was recommended by the French Consulate, as a premier agency involved in Chicago with schools who were also addressing those issues. Since President Chirac's visit, Youth Guidance has hosted meetings and site visits for French dignitaries, students, and media. Following the president's visit, two media groups filmed their programs; footage from one of those visits was included in the President's address to the French nation. It was during one of these visits that a teacher from France, Mr. Bernard Develey, initiated the idea of an exchange between our students in Chicago and the students from Nice, France. Youth Guidance agreed, and selected two of their schools, whose racial and cultural make-up were reflective of the majority of the population which comprise the Chicago Public Schools, and asked them to participate in this cultural immersion exchange program. Twenty-two students from College Henri-Matisse (a junior high school) in Nice, France, visited Chicago from October 22, 2000 through November 1, 2000 for this cultural immersion exchange program. Eleven of the students and their chaperones shadowed students from the Frederick Douglass Academy and the Thurgood Marshall Middle School; they experienced American family life during their homestays and visited a wide array of cultural and educational sites while in Chicago. Both groups of students experienced the rich cultural diversities of the African-American culture and the Mexican-American culture while on their visit. Both groups of Chicago students also were exposed the students from France and are eager to experience the rich culture of Nice, France. Frederick Douglass Academy and Thurgood Marshall Middle School will each send eleven students (who reflect the schools' racial and ethnic composition) to Nice, France. This trip will take place between February 4 – 14, 2001. The twenty-two students, along with 9 chaperones from Chicago, will participate in a cultural immersion exchange program with the students from College Henri-Matisse (a junior high school) in Nice, France. This exchange program is a result of a long-standing partnership between Youth Guidance, Douglass Academy and Marshall Middle School.

**EDUCATIONAL VALUE/OUTCOMES:** Each school has identified students (based on various criteria at each site) who are participating in an after-school program that focuses on preparing the student for this Cultural Immersion Program by providing both French language and cultural education. These after-school programs are facilitated in collaboration with the classroom teachers, the Youth Guidance site supervisors, the school-based chaperones, and the Alliance Frances de Chicago. Participants will experience French cultural and educational immersion through a homestay, shadowing students at College Henri-Matisse and organized touring by the group. This tour will provide an opportunity to experience the French educational system, life in a French home, explore cultural institutions and historical sites, and view contemporary French life and culture. In addition, the students in Chicago will have opportunities to participate in multicultural experiences with each other in Chicago, as they prepare for the immersion program and travel with students from a culture that is different from their own. Participation in this program is also being shared by each school's collaboration with

their "Principal for a Day". Each has agreed to support with resources the activities needed to prepare the students for this experience. These "Principals for a Day" are Mr. Stuart Schwartz, Managing Director of the Loew's House of Blues Hotel (Douglass) and Mr. Yves Jeantry CEO of Architects Enterprise, Limited (Marshall). Language arts activities through technology will also be at the core of this program, as the students form and continue dialog with their French counterparts through the use of e-mail.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/TRIP INFORMATION:** Arrangements for this program are being made by Youth Guidance and Mr. Bernard Develey, a teacher from College Henri-Matisse in Nice, France. Participants will travel via Air France Airlines, which has arranged a special round trip fare of \$350 per person. Participants will depart from O'Hare International Terminal at 4:45 p.m. on February 4, 2001, landing in Paris, France at 8:45 a.m. on February 5, 2001. The group will have a guided tour of Paris, led by Mr. Develey prior to taking a connecting Air France Airline flight at 4:00 p.m. and will arrive in Nice, France at 5:15 p.m. After their stay in Nice, (see itinerary) departure will be on February 14, 2001 from Nice at 8:50 am. to Orly. Students will be transported by bus (at no charge by Air France Airlines) to Roissy Charles de Gaulle International Airport and depart at 1:15 p.m. for Chicago, arriving back to the city at 4:50 p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**COST:** The cost per person is \$350 for the round trip air transportation. Each student will be asked to pay \$100 toward the airfare and will be required to obtain his or her own passport. (Passport fee is \$40) Airfare for each of the school's two chaperones will be paid by the chaperones. Youth Guidance, through support of private donors will pay for their employees/chaperones and provide the balance of the airfare (\$250) for the 22 students. No child will be excluded for financial reasons. College Henri-Matisse will provide all meals, activities and transportation while the students are in France. Students will be responsible for their own personal spending money. Youth Guidance will pay for and provide additional health and accident insurance for each of the student participants (see attachments), and each school will provide the cost of the day tour of Paris and the cost of the additional insurance for the chaperones (\$693.80) through either contributions (from the Principal's for a Day) or fund-raises at the school.

**CHAPERONES:** CHAPERONES: Supervision of students will be provided for this program pursuant to Board report 97-1217-PO1 ("Policy on Student Travel"), including proper ratio of students to adults.

Participating students will be accompanied by Dr. Betty F. Smith, Principal of the Frederick A. Douglass Academy and Mr. Jake Carter, a male teacher from the Douglass Academy. Two teachers (yet to be determined) from the Thurgood Marshall Middle school will accompany their 11 students. Youth Guidance will also send 5 representatives who work between the two schools. They are Sheree Blakemore, LaSandra Barnett, Gail Day, Jenny Kean, and Lisa Marth. All five of the Youth Guidance employees are social workers trained to work with youth.

**PARENTAL CONSENT:** Written parental consent and release forms for each student participating in the Cultural Immersion Program are on file at the Frederick A. Douglass Academy and the Thurgood Marshall Middle School. (See samples in the attachments)

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the President and Secretary to execute any travel agreements necessary for this program.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**LSC REVIEW:** This action was approved by the LSC for Frederick Douglass Academy and Thurgood Marshall Middle School on November 21, 2000.

**FINANCIAL:** No cost to the Chicago Public Schools.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

**Inspector General** – Each party to any agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

**Conflicts** – Any agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

**Indebtedness** – The Board’s Indebtedness Policy adopted July 26, 1995 (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of any agreement.


**Ethics** – The Board’s Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of any agreement.

**Contingent Liability** – Any agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).


Approved for Consideration:


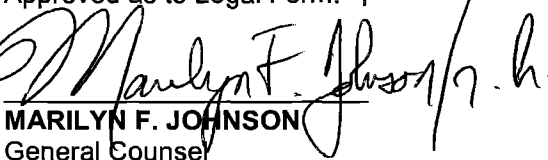
Approved:

  
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**COZETTE BUCKNEY**  
Chief Education Officer

  
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**PAUL G. VALLAS**  
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:

  
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**KENNETH C. GOTSCH**  
Chief Fiscal Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:   
  
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**MARILYN F. JOHNSON**  
General Counsel