

APPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF JAMES R. LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN A ORLANDO, FLORIDA ALL STAR MUSIC COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL AND AUTHORIZE TRAVEL EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Approve the participation of forty (40) students from the Lowell Elementary School in the Orlando All Star Music Competition and Festival at Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida, from May 23, 2001 through May 29, 2001 and authorize travel expenses related to the program if any.

USER: Lowell Elementary School
3320 West Hirsch Street
Chicago, Illinois 60651
(773) 534-4300
Mrs. Carmen Rivera Kurban, Music Director

PROGRAM: The Lowell Elementary School Band and Chorus have been selected to compete in the Orlando All Star Music Competition and Festival, a department of Disney World, Orlando, Florida. The chorus and band are the pride of Humboldt Park. Membership in these groups requires that a student and his/her parent sign a contract agreeing to maintain the student's academic progress. Students who fall below a C average are excluded from participation until their grades improve. The Lowell Chorus has existed in its present form for eleven years. They have performed at the Chicago Board of Education, at Navy Pier, at the Illinois Teacher-of -the-Year Awards, for School Partners (CTA and Helene Curtis), throughout the Humboldt Park community and in the Citywide Elementary Choral Festival. They have consistently received ratings of "Excellent."

The Lowell School Band has operated for six years. Some of its members have been selected for the All-City Band. They have participated in the Citywide Band Festival with ratings of "Superior." They have performed for the Mexican and Puerto Rican parades, as well as the Humboldt back-to-school parade and other community organizations. They have performed for their School Partners, Continental Furniture and Helene Curtis, and for the Illinois Rehabilitation Institute.

Graduates of the Lowell School Chorus and Band programs have been accepted into premiere high school fine arts programs (Lincoln Park, Curie) because of their musical skills. Most continue in their music education in high school and in extracurricular programs at Chicago-area colleges and universities.

In 1999, the Lowell School Band was awarded the Best-of -Class trophy in this competition. In 2000 the Lowell Band and Chorus was awarded the first place trophy in Concert Band and Concert Choir. The All Star Music Competition gives students the opportunity to compete against first-rate school bands and choruses from around the country. This program will give the Lowell students the kind of challenge they need to improve their level of musicianship.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE/OUTCOMES: Students who participate in this program will compete against challenging opponents from nationwide pool of elementary school music programs. Students learn about performance and receive written and "hands-on" staff. They will have an opportunity to rehearse and perform in professional settings with the latest in electronic equipment. The Lowell students build confidence, self-discipline and self-esteem, which carry over into every aspect of their lives, especially their ability to perform before audiences and their behavior in school.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/TRIP INFORMATION: Arrangements for this program are being made by Straight A Tours and Travel.

COST: The per-pupil cost is \$500.00, which includes transportation, meals, hotel accommodations, health and accident insurance, admission to the Disney World and the Epcot Center. The cost will be paid by student fees and parent-run fund-raising activities.

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.

The tour will be chaperoned by Carmen Rivera-Kurban (teacher), Gladys B. Rivera (principal), Carmen Montanez (parent), Aida Hernandez (parent), Dorothy Gonzalez (parent), Wanda Baez (parent), Elena Hernandez (parent), Reina Gomez (parent), Rufina Catalan (parent), Rosa Morales (parent)

PARENTAL CONSENT: Written parental consent and release forms for each student are on file at Lowell Elementary School.

AUTHORIZATION: Authorize the President and Secretary of execute any travel arrangements necessary for this program.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS: Not applicable.

LSC REVIEW: This activity was approved by the Lowell Elementary School Local School Council on October 10, 2000.

FINANCIAL: No additional cost to the Chicago Public Schools.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: Inspector General - Each party to this agreement hereby acknowledges 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 these investigations.

Conflicts - The 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, of 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 (95-0726EX3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

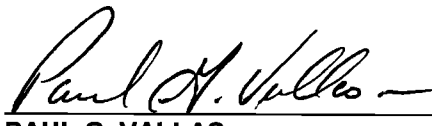
Ethics - The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Approved for Consideration:

Approved:



COZETTE BUCKNEY
Chief Education Officer



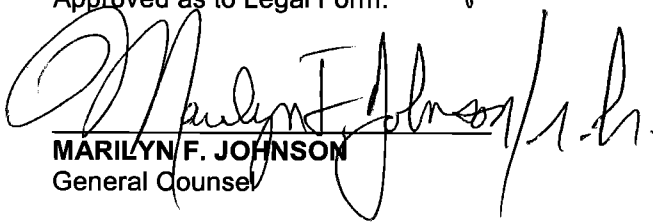
PAUL G. VALLAS
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:



KENNETH C. GOTSCH
Chief Fiscal Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

MAJ


MARILYN F. JOHNSON
General Counsel