

DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011
Administrative Center - 63 Beaver Brook Road

A G E N D A

6:30 P.M. BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. PRESENTATION
Annual Testing Report: CMT, CAPT, SAT, AP
Dr. William Glass, Dr. Meghan Martins and Ann Lindenmeyer
- V. ADJOURNMENT

7:30 P.M. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- I. CALL TO ORDER EXHIBIT
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. RECOGNITIONS
 - A. Mayor Mark Boughton presents Danbury Education Foundation Grant Awards 11-38(pg.4)
 - B. DHS Peer Leadership 2011 Spinathon raised \$9,180 to Help our Military Heroes 11-39(pg.7)

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
The Board welcomes Public Participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 3 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, or against any person connected with the Danbury Public School System.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended:

- A. MINUTES
 - Board of Education Meeting Minutes, 2/27/11 11-40(pg.10)
 - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, 2/3/11 11-41(pg.17)

VI. EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School: Nadine Edwards, Sebastian Ramirez,
Shaquilla Taylor, Rebecca Leonard
Alternative Center: Cassandra Urban and Vanessa Grant

VIII. PRESENTATION

VIX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. School Calendar/Weather Related Closings 11-41(pg.18)
- B. Legislative Update
- C. Roof Snow Removal Inspections

X. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2011-2012 Budget

MOTION: that the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget in the amount of \$118,638,099 as recommended by the Superintendent for submission to the Mayor as required by City Charter.

B. DHS Field Trip to London, England

MOTION: that the Board of Education approve the Danbury High School Field Trip to London, England, April break 2012 11-42(pg.20)

XI. DISCUSSIONS

XII. INFORMATION

XIII. BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

XIV. BOARD REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

<u>Committee Reports</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>
Sites and Facilities	J. Scozzafava	E. Alberts, K. Molinaro
Community Relations	R. Jannelli	R. Austin-James, K. Gailliard
Finance	M. Fazio R. Jannelli	S. Leroy, J. Scozzafava, R. Taborsak
Operations/Policy	R. Taborsak	E. Alberts, G. Cooper, K. Gailliard, K. Molinaro

Superintendent Evaluation K. Molinaro R. Jannelli, S. Leroy

District Committees

City-Wide PTO
District Development
TDEC
DSABC
Education Connection
Magnet School Trustees
Oral Health Initiative
School Based Health

MEMBERS

K. Molinaro
E. Alberts, R. Taborsak
E. Alberts, R. Taborsak, R. Jannelli
R. Jannelli
R. Jannelli
G. Cooper, K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak
E. Alberts
E. Alberts

Other Committees

City-Board Building
Negotiations – Administrators
Negotiations - Non Teaching
Negotiations – Teachers
Mayor’s 2020 Task Force

K. Molinaro, E. Alberts
K. Molinaro (Chair), G. Cooper, R. Taborsak
K. Molinaro (Chair), G. Cooper, R. Taborsak
G. Cooper (Chair), K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak
E. Alberts, K. Molinaro – Board
William Glass, Administrative Rep
Cindy Mirochine, Union Teacher (new)
TBD - DHS Student
Rosty Slabicky, Community Member
Michael Calandrino, Common Council Member
Frederick Visconti, Jr. Common Council Member
Antonio Iadarola, Dir. of Public Works
TBD, City-wide PTO Member

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVI. PUBLIC SESSION

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETINGS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

February 7 Citywide PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. @ BBAC
February 9 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m. @ BBAC
February 17 Professional Development Day, Early Dismissal All Schools
February 18-21 President’s Day Weekend, All Schools Closed
February 23 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m. @ BBAC
February 17 Professional Development – Early Dismissal
February 18-21 President’s Day Weekend – School Closed
February 21 President’s Day – Offices Closed
March 7 City-Wide PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BBAC
March 9 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BBAC
March 23 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., BBAC
March 29 Combination PD/Staff Meeting, Early Dismissal

DANBURY EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS

In the up to \$1,500 category the winners are:

- Tarrywile Greenhouse Vocational Program, by Anne Cunningham & R. Scott Weisner for Danbury High School in the amount of \$970
- Aprendiendo Juntos/ Learning Together, by Linda Mitten & Cristina Roth for Danbury High School & King Street Primary in the amount of \$550
- Nimer Running Program, by Mary Nimer for King Street Primary & Mill Ridge Primary in the amount of \$1,500
- Orff Instruments, by Marie Williams for King Street Intermediate in the amount of \$1,025
- Bio-Eco 21, by Jon Webber for ACE in the amount of \$1,500
- High School Book Club, by Natalie Koehler for Danbury High School in the amount of \$1,432

In the up to \$5,000 category the winner is:

- Hunger Games: Political Freedoms at Risk, by Laura Baxter, Donna DeMayo & Christina Taylor-Riendeau for Danbury High School in the amount of \$5,000

Exhibit # 11-38

Danbury teachers earn grants for innovation

Eileen FitzGerald, Staff Writer

Published: 12:00 a.m., Monday, January 31, 2011

DANBURY -- Cutting-edge technology, garden supplies, a musical instrument, and a new high school book club were among the seven purchases or programs the Danbury Education Foundation will support with grants.

The Danbury Education Foundation gives classroom excellence grants each year to teachers who propose activities or equipment for innovative programs.

Danbury High School technology leader Laura Baxter and high school English teachers Donna DeMayo and Cristina Taylor-Riendeau received the largest grant, \$5,000, for a project around themes in the book "Hunger Games: Political Freedoms at Risk" and this year's school musical, "Urine Town."

"I was so excited to win," Baxter said. "This year the changes in the curriculum have pushed teachers to do more sophisticated projects."

The projects utilize the forefront of technology in the classroom -- instead of writing an essay on a book they read, the students do a podcast or two-minute video clip.

Students will research ways people and organizations find peaceful solutions to political problems and create an electronic presentation.

The grant will fund the purchase of an iPod charging station, 20 iPods and 35 copies of the book.

"The \$5,000 winner, 'Hunger Games: Political Freedoms at Risk' ... is an excellent grant," said Ted Cutsumpas, who was on the mayor's committee that selected grant recipients. "It was written well, and combined technology with everyday political issues."

The foundation choose six other grant winners who will get their awards at the Board of Education meeting Feb 9.

John Webber, the science teacher at Danbury's Alternative Center for Excellence, received the \$1,500 he requested to purchase a SMART Board for his classroom.

"This is huge," Webber said Wednesday.



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The interactive board marries a computer with a projector screen to display pictures, videos, graphs and connect to the Internet. It will allow student work to be linked to the school from other sites off campus like labs and allow teachers to collaborate and tap other science resources.

Mary Nimer, the physical education teacher at both King Street Primary and Mill Ridge Primary schools won \$1,500 to expand a running program. She started it in 2007 at King Street Primary School and wants to expand it to Mill Ridge.

She rewards students with small charms for running courses and for exhibiting good behavior, character and sportsmanship. She also will use charms for good nutrition and healthy eating habits as part of the grant.

Natalie Koehler at Danbury High School will get \$1,432 to start an after-school book club. She'll use the money to buy eight Kindles and 32 e-books. The club will raise money for more books.

High school teacher Linda Mitten and King Street Primary teacher Cristina Roth won a \$550 grant that will cover bus transportation and materials needed for a bilingual kindergarten class at King Street Primary to visit Danbury High School's child development classes.

The high school students will visit King Street Primary in June and teach a lesson.

King Street Intermediate music teacher Marie Williams won \$1,025 to purchase a Orff bass xylophone, and Danbury High special education teachers Anne Cunningham and R. Scott Weisner won \$970 to buy garden supplies for a program that uses a Tarrywile Park greenhouse during the school year.

Contact Eileen FitzGerald

at eileenf@newstimes.com

or at 203-731-3333.

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On Mon, Jan 31, 2011 at 11:02 AM, Lisa Frese <fresel@danbury.k12.ct.us> wrote:

2011 Spinathon to raise money for Help Our Military Heroes

www.helpourmilitaryheroes.org

Andrew Vandergrift, Michael Pristouris, Deyon Rosado and Casey Wright have lots to be proud of this year, Spinathon was a great success. DHS peer leadership program sponsors the raffle which raised \$9180.00 and the event total for the day was \$166,000.00!!! All of the proceeds go to Help Our Military Heroes to purchase handicapped accessible vans for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with life changing amputee injuries. Thank you to all of the students that turned out to volunteer and support our military heroes!!!

<http://www.newstimes.com/default/article/Danbury-Spinathon-helps-people-wounded-in-the-971075.php>

This is a link to the article

Exhibit # 11-39

Danbury Spinathon helps people wounded in the military

Eileen FitzGerald, Staff Writer

Published: 09:28 p.m., Monday, January 24, 2011

DANBURY -- U.S. Marine Sgt. Carlos Evans was in the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Maryland last spring.

He'd lost his legs and a hand in an incident in Afghanistan on his fourth tour of duty, which was supposed to be his last.

The 31-year-old thought it would be tough to rebuild his life with wife Rose Marie and their two young daughters.

But when he learned that Laurie and Ted Hollander and Marybeth Vandergrift had a charity in Danbury that would give him a van adapted to his needs, he said he knew things would change for the better.

Evans and his wife will drive from the medical center to attend the annual spinathon in Danbury that raises money for the charity Help our Military Heroes.

The spinathon is scheduled for Saturday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New York Sports Club, 38 Mill Plain Road.

"Getting to know Laurie and the others amazes me because I didn't know people cared," Evans said. "They wanted to help me. It inspires me to do something like that one day.

"Their giving me the van (will change) my life a lot for the better. Before this, I didn't think I would be able to live a normal life. The van gives me a lot of hope."

Hollander, a spin instructor at New York Sports Club, expects about 300 people to come throughout the day. Last year the event raised about \$181,000, with some people sending donations to HOMH, 15 Pleasant Lane, Easton, CT 06622.

The charity, founded in 2009, so far has donated six vehicles fully equipped for handicapped drivers.

"We work with the Walter Reed Society, and they are able to determine who is ready to receive a vehicle," Hollander said. "We are open to all branches of the service."

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Hollander has a son who graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and is now stationed at Fort Hood in Texas. She also has a son in the Marines.

Danbury High School seniors Andrew Vandergrift, who is Marybeth's son, Michael Pristouris and Casey Wright, all 17, and Deyon Rosado, 18, are in charge of the raffle for the event. It's a community change project for their Peer Leadership Class.

Andrew Vandergrift visited Walter Reed with his mother and is excited Evans is coming to Danbury.

"I wanted to get a sense of what really goes on there, and it got me really involved," Vandergrift said. "The Patriot Guard (motorcycle club) will escort (Evans) to Mill Plain. It will be a really big deal."

Evans, who originally is from Puerto Rico but now calls North Carolina home, said he's looking forward to helping the spinathon raise money.

"They've been very kind to us," he said. "We want them to be able to give vans to other people in need."

Contact Eileen FitzGerald

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or at 203-731-3333.

<p>Top 5 Fundraising Ideas "We raised \$3,300 in 2 weeks with ABC Fundraising@ - AbcFundraising</p> <p>"Weird Fruit Burns Fat" Reporter Drops 32 Pounds in 28 Days with This Strange www.5NewsTV.com</p>	<p>Ads by Yahoo!</p>
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DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011 - 7:00 pm
Administrative Center - 63 Beaver Brook Road

A G E N D A

Present: E. Alberts, M. Fazio, I. Fox, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, R. Taborsak
Dr. S. Pascarella, Mr. E. Longo, Ms. J. Emmett from Administration

Absent: R. Austin-James, J. Scozzafava, S. LeRoy, K. Gailliard, G. Cooper
Dr. William Glass, Ms. K. Thompson from Administration

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson, Irving Fox, called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Mark Boughton presentation of Danbury Education Foundation Grant Awards postponed to the February 9th Board Meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three DHS seniors, Benjamin Altman, Allie Bukowski, and Greg Azevedo, express their desire and concern that the district forego mid-year exams because of time constraints on teachers due to weather and student preparedness for the exams.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the items on the Consent Calendar, as recommended:

A. MINUTES

- 1/13/11 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
- 1/13/11 Bi-Monthly Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- 1/19/11 Board Workshop (Budget Meeting w/City Council)

The motion carried at 7:22 p.m.

Exhibit # 11-40 ¹

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE - None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Danbury High School: Nadine Edwards

Nadine reports that parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for March 21, and on February 11, the Smile Train Committee is presenting the second annual Mr. DHS competition, where 13 DHS senior boys compete for the title of Mr. DHS 2011. Tickets will be sold for \$8 at the door. On January 30, there will be a College Bowl Sunday at WCSU on the Westside campus.

Alternative Center: None

PRESENTATION

ACTION ITEMS

A. November 2010 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by M. Fazio that the Board of Education accept the November 2010 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Longo told the Board that for the month of November 2010, the District expended \$8,580,411, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$32,209,516. Fiscal year-to-date expenditure as of November 30 is 28.3% with encumbrance's year-to-date at 37.8% as compared to the theoretical expense rate of 42%.

Chairman Fox questions the textbook account. He states that we have only expended one-half of the amount. He asks if we typically spread the cost of textbooks over the course of the year, or is it really more towards the beginning of the semester. Mr. Longo reports it is more towards the beginning of the semester. The dollars were allocated to Dr. Glass. Dr. Glass then works with the various department chairs and coordinators to meet their needs.

The motion carried at 7:25 p.m.

B. November 2010 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by E. Alberts that the Board of Education accept the November 2010 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Longo told the Board that for the month of November 2010, the District expended \$1,573,224 for a fiscal year-to-date expenditure as of November 30, 2010 of \$6,308,422.

The motion carried at 7:26 p.m.

C. December 2010 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education accept the December 2010 Operating Results Analysis (General Fund)

Mr. Longo told the Board that for the month of December 2010, the District expended \$10,585,751, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$42,795,266, approximately 37.6% of the General Fund total budget with encumbrances as of November 30, the year-to-date expenditure rate is at 35.6% as compared to the theoretical rate of 50%.

M. Fazio asks a question on custodial overtime. His recollection is that this is not a reduced number from previous years. He feels we are more than half way through the school year and we have spent \$53,000 out of \$170,000, or 31%. He asks if we have cut back or did we appropriate too much. Mr. Longo explains we have in the past years had vacant positions. We, in turn, were forced to provide overtime for the remaining staff. We filled the vacancies, and again, tried to manage overtime, which goes out at a minimum of time and a half. Chairman Fox comments on the textbooks. Although the amount expended went up, the amount of encumbrances stayed the same, does that mean we did not deliver any new textbooks in the month of December. E. Longo said we have not. The encumbrances are met with purchase orders.

Dr. Pascarella said they are doing business at the high school as they normally do. Many of them had class sets and they utilized that same process. This year they we are going to order in May, but going through the budget the way we did, many of them did not think funds would be there, so they were making due with what they had. This past month, they have selected a new group who is writing new curriculum for the other areas that they will be purchasing textbooks for.

The motion carried at 7:35 p.m.

D. December 2010 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, M. Fazio seconded by that the Board of Education accept the December 2010 Operating Results Analysis (Grants/Projects)

Mr. Longo told the Board that for the month of December 2010, the District expended \$2,410,855, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date expenditure value of \$8,719,277. The fiscal year-to-date expenditure represents 33.4% of the currently reported Grants and Projects awards.

The motion carried at 7:36 p.m.

E. AIS Magnet School Contribution Rate

MOTION: R. Jannelli moved, seconded by R. Taborsak that the Board of Education approve the AIS Magnet School contribution rate of \$1,784 for the 2011-2012 school year.

The Board asks Mr. Longo if this is the same rate as last year, and Mr. Longo states it is.

The motion carried at 7:37 p.m.

DISCUSSIONS

INFORMATION

A. DHS Field Trip to London, England, April Break 2012

Jaelyn Gronwoldt, an English teacher at Danbury High School has given everyone an itinerary and pricing information and asked if the Board had any questions. Question was raised about the insurance and she explained that it is offered to each person individually. R. Taborsak asked how many students are going. Ms. Gronwoldt responded that one adult goes free for every six students, and she can take as many students as sign up. The trip is not grade specific. R. Jannelli suggests that if time allowed, the students might want to visit a local high school, and Ms. Gronwoldt agreed and thought it would be a great idea. She will look into it.

Mr. Longo asked Ms. Gronwoldt to contact Pat Zeiss in the Business Office to register the trip with CIRMA for international travel insurance, which is part of our general policy.

B. Board Member Attendance 2010

Information on Board Member Attendance is attached to each Member's packet.

C. Middle School Parent Survey

Information was also included in each member's packet with regard to possible dress code. R. Jannelli asked if this will come before the Board to create a policy. Dr. Pascarella stated that we have a dress code. He expressed his concerns and support. We can make recommendations for parents, but we cannot force a student to wear a uniform, unless it relates to gang-related activities. If we feel that we are at a point where it is detrimental to the educational process, the Board then could invoke a policy that would require each to have a uniform. Right now we are collecting the information. R. Jannelli asks if it will be voluntary. Dr. Pascarella responded that it is voluntary.

D. DHS Exams postponed one week - now February 1-4, 2011

Dr. Pascarella spoke with Dr. Rossi today and he will talk with his leadership team and faculty. There are students who don't want to take the exam because it may impact their grades. As of now, exams are scheduled for February 1 through 4.

E. Weather Related Closings (6 closings to date, tentative Graduation June 23rd)

Dr. Pascarella explains that our calendar states that if we go beyond the designated snow days, we have classes until June 30. If it goes beyond that, we will start to take the days off our spring break in April, starting with the first day, which is April 18.

Dr. Pascarella is moving to a two-hour delay versus 90-minute delay. The road crew needs the time. This is effective immediately. The Board has always had a 911 emergency dismissal. We have created a new emergency schedule and that will be effective January 31, 2011.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 2011-2012 Proposed Budget (handout at meeting)

Dr. Pascarella spoke about the TDEC meeting. He reports we are finalizing our plans and they are more data driven. He states that we are going forward with the TDEC plan and will keep everyone apprised.

With regard to the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget, Dr. Pascarella reports that we are not guaranteed what we received last year. We could get less, the same, or more. More is not likely. Dr. Pascarella proceeded to go over the handout with the Board. One area he spoke about was the consideration of no new programs. The question under no new programs is graduation requirements. Dr. Rossi and the chairmen are looking at what the costs would be if we were to do it. It will probably not have an impact until three years, but he is looking at what type of staffing will be needed.

A moratorium has been placed on new technology equipment. We are reallocating existing staff and resources to meet basic operational needs, and we are continuing to aggressively pursue cost containment and savings measures. One problem we are having with technology is that we do not have the staff to support more technology. As we get gifts from fundraisers and they bring in new equipment, we don't have the staff to support it.

Dr. Pascarella instructs the Board to look at the bullet with regard to mission critical -- the most basic level of the Board's mission is to support reading, writing and mathematics instruction. Dr. Pascarella invites the Board to visit the classrooms. He is impressed with what they are doing. They have individuals helping them, they demonstrate lessons, sometimes they work with students. Support to the teacher in the classroom has to be there. We need to support the teachers as much as we can.

Dr. Pascarella further explains the points that are given to the Board in the handout.

Dr. Pascarella talked about the transportation situation and how we are increasing our enrollment and our equipment is staying the same. The bus company needs more time to deliver the students, and we are looking at maybe adding some time during the day to accommodate that so we don't have to add any more buses. Dr. Pascarella's concern is having the late elementary students home too late.

ARRA - Job Funds is currently at .4, and we have saved that from this year. Dr. Pascarella said that depending on how ECS is funded to the municipalities, it might be included into the ECS grant. These are the rumors we are hearing.

Mr. Longo has been able to work with the City so we have a .3% increase or roughly about \$400,000. We have about \$600,000 in staffing just for enrollment. We will know more as the high school starts their registration and as we start getting kindergarten enrollments. We are going to lose

the ARRA money this year, and in order to replace that money and have the programs that we did not cut, we will have to put about \$800,000 into the budget.

General fund revenue sources - \$114 million dollars . The City of Danbury taxpayers, approximately \$91 million dollars; reimbursements in the form of ECS grants from the State to the City of Danbury, approximately \$19.8 million dollars. We have a subsidy from the federal government known as ARRA-SFSF for a total of \$3.2 million dollars, so approximately 91 cents on a dollar for education is funded at the local level. The next slide is on a dollar basis. On a dollar basis, the City of Danbury taxpayers fund approximately 80 cents per dollar for education spending; 17% is reimbursed by the State of Connecticut, and we have a federal subsidy passed through the state representing 3 cents on a dollar.

Chairman Fox asks that with all the cost increases we have had, and assuming ECS stays flat, does this 17% actually decrease by a certain amount. That would be a shift of burden to the taxpayers. Dr. Pascarella clarifies that if the ECS money does come to fruition, this budget as it stands now would be roughly 7%.

Current year cost composition slide – Mr. Longo explains that salaries for district employees total approximately \$60 million dollars, plus cost of benefits of approximately \$20 million dollars, we are at 80%. I. Fox asks if the budget includes the lighting and solar projects. Mr. Longo said best case scenarios, combined value of the solar and lighting, we would have a positive cash flow of approximately \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year. By combining the two projects, we stand to realize approximately \$70,000 of positive cash flow.

Mr. Longo states that we have been asked by many of our partners to be more efficient with our practices, and we believe we have been more efficient. We went back to 2006-2007, and the per pupil expense comparing Danbury to our partner districts, known as DRG H category and the State of Connecticut average of all school districts. In 2006-2007, Danbury's per pupil expense totaled \$10,700. DRG H spent \$11,900 per pupil while the state average held at \$11,558. In 2007-2008, Danbury's per pupil came in at \$11,200 compared to DRG H at \$12,300 and the State average of \$12,150. In the fiscal year of 2008-2009, Danbury's per pupil was \$11,700, DRG H was \$13,000 and the state average was \$12,800. Mr. Longo states that it is quite evident that on a per pupil expense analysis, Danbury not only came in under the state average, but is well within the per pupil expense of DRG H.

Dr. Pascarella and E. Longo continue to explain and go through each slide.

Dr. Pascarella summarizes by going through each critical point. He states that we have to keep working on the achievement gap, and maintain clean, safe, and orderly learning environments for our students.

Mr. Longo explains that the budget has since been revised to 4.16%. There remain a few minor housekeeping efforts which will take place soon, and we should have the Superintendent's final number ready for the Board and the public on Monday, January 31.

R. Taborsak asked if we updated our curriculum, and Dr. Pascarella states we are working on secondary and middle school. Elementary has done a lot in reading.

Chairman Fox suggests that the Finance Committee meet, and the meeting was set for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 2, at Beaver Brook Administration Center.

R. Jannelli questions if the demographer took into consideration the new condos going up in the Rivington project. Dr. Pascarella will look into it.

K. Molinaro inquired at looking into targeting redistricting. A discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: R. Taborsak moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education adjourn its January 27, 2011 meeting.

The motion carried unanimously at 8:33 p.m.

Kathleen M. Molinaro, Secretary

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2011**

Present: Mike Fazio, Rich Jannelli (Co-Chairs), Bob Taborsak

Absent: Sue Leroy, Joe Scozzafava

Also Present: Irving Fox, Kathy Molinaro, Sal Pascarella, Bill Glass, Elio Longo

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Jannelli turned the meeting over to Mr. Longo. Mr. Longo handed out revised cost projections. Discussion ensued regarding enrollment, graduation requirements, etc. Budget as presented is maintaining current programs. Mr. Jannelli stated that the budget must reflect giving our students an adequate education to qualify for higher education. Discussed ECS funding versus "jobs" fund. Class size was discussed in terms of enrollment increases.

It is the consensus of the Committee to wait until the Mayor makes his budget recommendation for the Board of Education to discuss reductions in programs if necessary.

MOTION: Mr. Taborsak moved, seconded by Mr. Jannelli, to present budget as presented to the full Board of Education with the 4.16% increase. The motion passed unanimously.

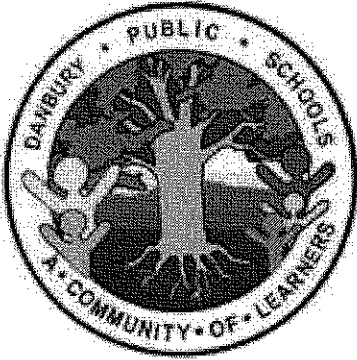
A Finance Committee Meeting will be scheduled as soon as the Governor announces his budget.

Also discussed hiring a grant writer and having a policy for advertising.

MOTION: Mr. Taborsak moved, seconded by Mr. Fazio, to adjourn the February 3, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Kathleen Molinaro, Secretary

Exhibit # 11-41



DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Administrative Center
63 Beaver Brook Road
Danbury, Connecticut 06810-6211
(203) 797-4701
Fax: (203) 830-6562
Email: pascas@danbury.k12.ct.us

Sal V. Pascarella, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

To: Board of Education Members

From: Sal V. Pascarella, Ed.D.

Subject: School Calendar – Weather Related Closings

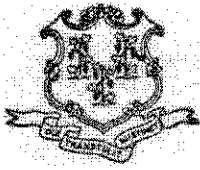
CT Law requires that public schools be in session for at least 180 days per school year. The State Board of Education released a memo on January 31st stating they will not consider a waiver of this requirement (see attached).

Our calendar states that any days lost by emergency closing will be added to the calendar after June 15th. To date we have had 8 emergency closings, which brings us to June 27th. This leaves only 3 days until June 30th at which time we start taking days off the beginning of the April vacation (which from past experience is much more problematic than other options).

What I would propose is that we eliminate the President's Day Weekend (February 18 & 21) and the May 27th PD Day. We would deduct these 3 days in June making the last day of school June 22nd (barring any more snow days). That should give us the flexibility we need to get through the remainder of the winter season and allow more instructional time to prepare for the CMT/CAPT testing in March.

I have discussed this with the Principals and will discuss these options at the City-Wide PTO Meeting on Monday and give you their feedback at Wednesday's Board Meeting.

Exhibit # 11-42



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GEORGE A. COLEMAN
ACTING COMMISSIONER



Series: 2010-2011

Circular Letter:

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: George A. Coleman, Acting Commissioner of Education

DATE: January 31, 2011

SUBJECT: School Closures and the School Calendar

Due to inclement weather, many districts already have closed school and shortened the school day on numerous occasions during the current school year. The purpose of this communication is to review the pertinent law regarding the school calendar with respect to granting waivers of the 180-day requirement.

Connecticut law requires that public schools be in session for at least 180 days per school year.¹ School districts that enact a school calendar with more than 180 school days do so voluntarily, and need not seek approval from the State Board of Education (the "SBE") to shorten or otherwise modify the school calendar, provided that school is in session on at least 180 days. Due to the large number of school closings that have occurred thus far this school year, it may be necessary for some districts to modify their school calendar in order to comply with this legal requirement. In such situations, please be advised that Connecticut law prohibits rescheduled school sessions from being held on Saturday or Sunday. In addition, a district may not make up the time by extending the hours of school days. Schools may be in session on legal holidays, however, except for those legal holidays falling in the months of January or December. In the event school is held on a legal holiday, districts are required to offer a nonsectarian educational program in observance of such holiday.

We have received a number of inquiries regarding whether the SBE will consider waiving the 180-day requirement. Connecticut law allows for the SBE to authorize boards of education to modify the school calendar to have fewer than 180 days of school due to "unavoidable emergency." Please be advised that school closures due to inclement weather generally will not constitute unavoidable emergencies. When closures due to inclement weather occur early enough in the school year (such as in the winter months), local boards will have sufficient time throughout the remainder of the school year, through June 30, to make up lost days. Therefore, the State Department of Education ordinarily will not support waiver requests for snow days. As a result, boards of education should anticipate that the SBE will not ordinarily consider waiving the 180-day requirement this year due to school closures as a result of inclement weather.

¹ Although the law does not define the term "school day," please note that school districts are required to provide in each school year (1) 900 hours of actual work for full-day kindergarten and grades 1 through 12, and (2) 450 hours of half-day kindergarten. School districts may not count more than 7 hours of actual school work in any school day towards the total required for the school year. Connecticut General Statutes § 10-16.

STUDENT TRIP SUMMARY FORM
(Revised 9-23-09)

DESTINATION: London, England	
PURPOSE: Firsthand experience of Europe, History and English objectives in curriculum are met	STUDENT ELIGIBILITY: 2.0 GPA No suspensions (OSS)
DEPARTURE DATE: 4/14/12 (Approx.) RETURN DATE: 4/21/12 (Approx.)	COSTS: \$2,004 per student
NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS MISSED: Possibly 1, probably 0	SOURCE OF FUNDING: Individual
IF FUND RAISER, PLEASE EXPLAIN: Will be decided by group. Some possibilities: Car Wash Bake Sale Sports Tournament	SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH FINANCIAL NEEDS (Parents will be notified of procedure to apply for financial assistance through field trip announcement): - Payment Plan through EF - Fund Raising
METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION: Airplane, bus, subway	MEAL PLAN: Breakfast + Dinner are included
ITINERARY: See attached	
SUPERVISOR/CHAPERONES: Jaclyn Gronwoldt, Ken Keller	
MAXIMUM # OF STUDENTS: None	# STUDENTS PER CHAPERONE: 6 Board Policy - 1 Adult to 8-10 students 1 Teacher to 10-12 students


Principal's Signature

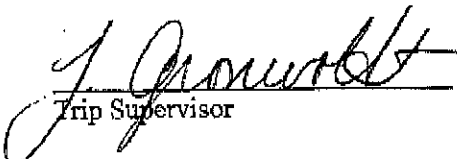

Trip Supervisor

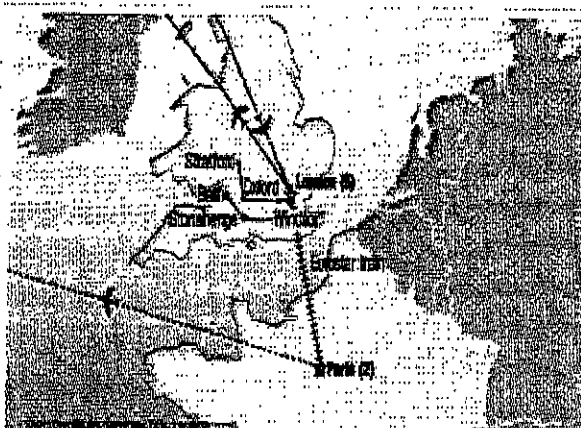
Exhibit # 11-43

London In Depth



Educational Tours
International travel for teachers and students

Print »



London In Depth

Tour Information

Group Leader: Jaclyn Gronwoldt
Tour Name: London In Depth
Departure Date: Friday, Apr 13, 2012
Return Date: Thursday, Apr 19, 2012
Number of Days: 7
Departure Gateway: New York

Price Quote

Enrollment Fee	\$95
Program Fee *	\$1,560
Early Enrollment Discount ^	-\$150
Current Departure Fees**	\$464
Weekend Supplement	\$35
Peace of Mind Program	Free

Itinerary

- Day 1 Fly overnight to England
- Day 2 London
- Day 3 London
- Day 4 London
- Day 5 London
- Day 6 London
- Day 7 Depart for home

Program fee includes

- Airfare:** Round-trip flights
- Transportation:** Comfortable motorcoach • Eurostar high-speed train with extension
- Accommodations:** 5 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (7 with extension)
- Meals:** European breakfast and dinner daily (lunch instead of dinner on Day 5)
- Tour director:** Full-time EF Tour Director
- Sightseeing:** 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides (3 with extension) • 1 walking tour (2 with extension)
- Extras:** 1 theater performance • 3-day Visitor Underground Travelcard

Optional excursions: Stonehenge and Bath • Oxford and Stratford

	Monthly†	Total
For Students	\$144	\$2,004
Adult Supplement		
For Adults	\$163	\$275
		\$2,279

Tour items not included

- Stonehenge and Bath \$105
- Oxford and Stratford \$95
- All Inclusive Insurance \$145

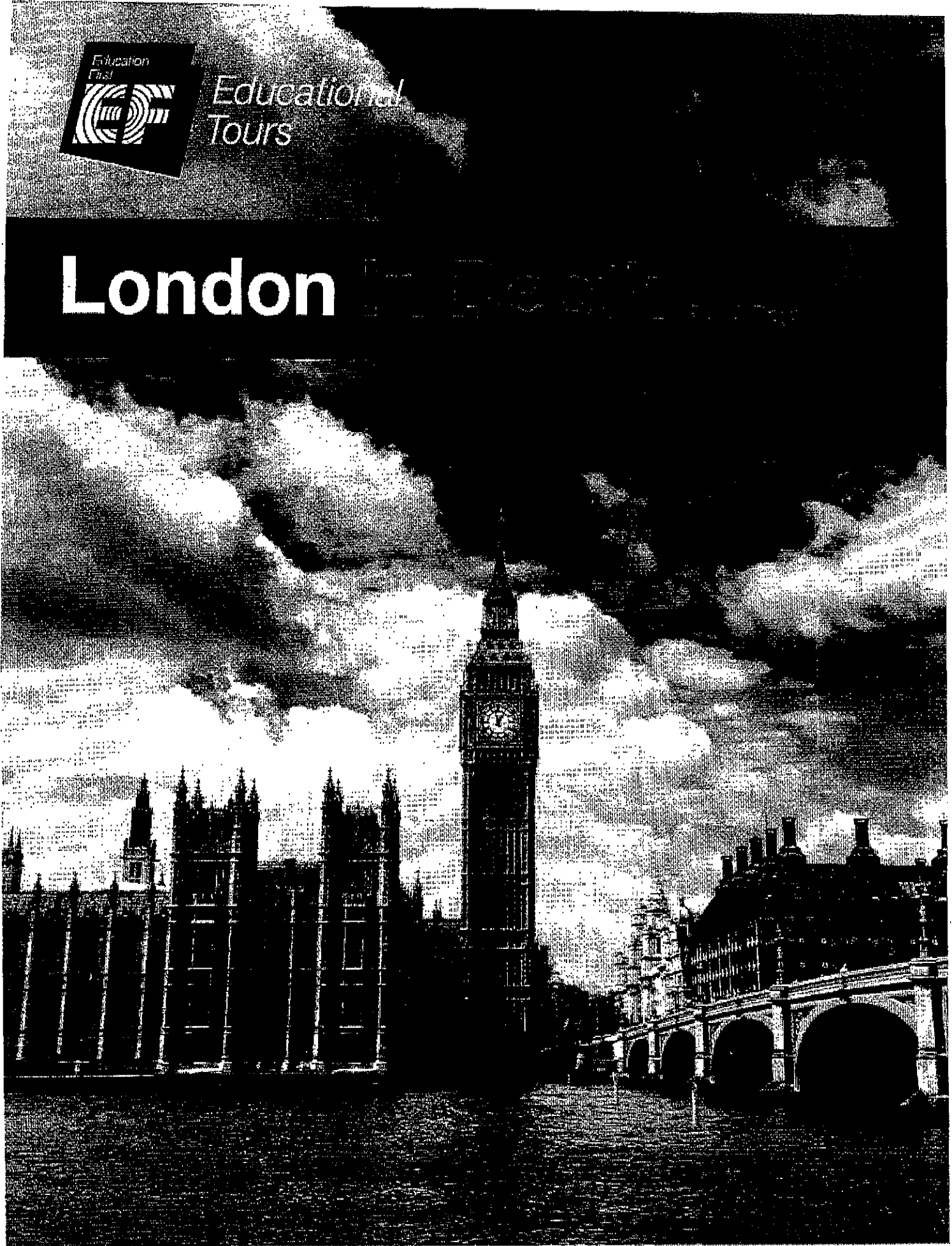
* Program fee valid for all who enroll through Thursday, March 31, 2011. All other fees subject to change.
 ^ Discount applicable to travelers enrolled December 16, 2010 through February 28, 2011. This discount cannot be used or combined with any other offer.
 ** These are the current departure fees as of today. They include taxes and surcharges levied by governments and airlines and are subject to change. These fees do not include any applicable baggage-handling fees imposed by the airline. Your departure fees are finalized 30-50 days prior to departure.
 † Estimated monthly payment if a participant enrolls on Wednesday, Jan 19, 2011
Quote created on Wednesday, Jan 19, 2011

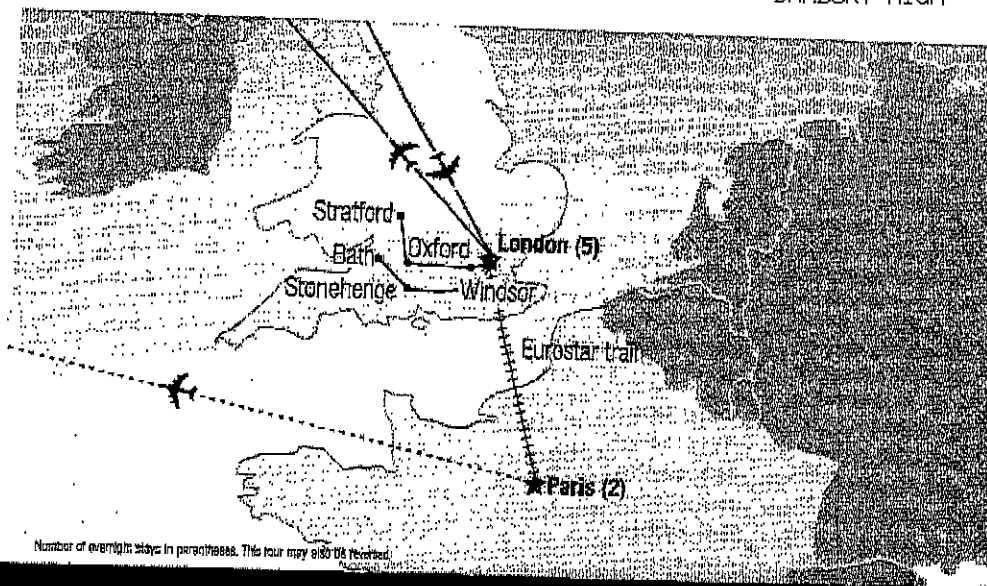
All prices are subject to verification by an EF Tour Consultant. To view EF's Booking Conditions, visit www.eftours.com/bc
 To enroll visit www.eftours.com/enroll or call 1-800-665-5364.



*Educational
Tours*

London





Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be tailored.

Top things to see on tour:



Windsor Castle



Tower of London



Piccadilly Circus



Big Ben



West End Theatre

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- Comfortable motorcoach Eurostar high-speed train with extension
- 6 overnight stays in hotels in central location with private bathrooms (2 with extension)
- European breakfast and dinner daily (lunch instead of dinner on Day 5)
- Full-time U.S. Tour Director
- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides (2 with extension)
- 1 walking tour led by a licensed local guide (2 with extension)
- 1 theater performance
- 3-day Visitor Intergrated Insurance

Optional:

- Oxford and Stratford
- Stonehenge and Bath

DAY 1: Fly overnight to England

DAY 2: London

Arrive in London

Take a walking tour of London:

- The Strand
- Trafalgar Square
- Leicester Square
- Covent Garden

DAY 3: London

Take a guided tour of London:

- Big Ben and Houses of Parliament
- Piccadilly Circus
- St. Paul's Cathedral
- Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace (if scheduled)

Take a guided tour of Windsor Castle:

- St. George's Chapel
- State Apartments

Attend an evening theater performance

DAY 4: London

Enjoy free time in London

Optional: Stonehenge and Bath:

- Stonehenge stone circles
- Georgian squares of Bath
- Roman baths

DAY 5: London

Visit the Tower of London

Take a Thames River cruise to Greenwich

Visit the Royal Observatory

Visit the National Maritime Museum

DAY 6: London

Enjoy free time in London

Optional: Oxford and Stratford:

- Brasenose College
- Shakespeare's birthplace
- Gardens at Anne Hathaway's cottage

DAY 7: Depart for home

2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 7: London • Paris

Travel on the Eurostar train to Paris

Take a guided tour of Paris:

- Place de la Concorde
- Champs-Élysées
- Arc de Triomphe
- Les Invalides
- Eiffel Tower

DAY 8: Paris

Visit the Louvre

Take a walking tour of Paris:

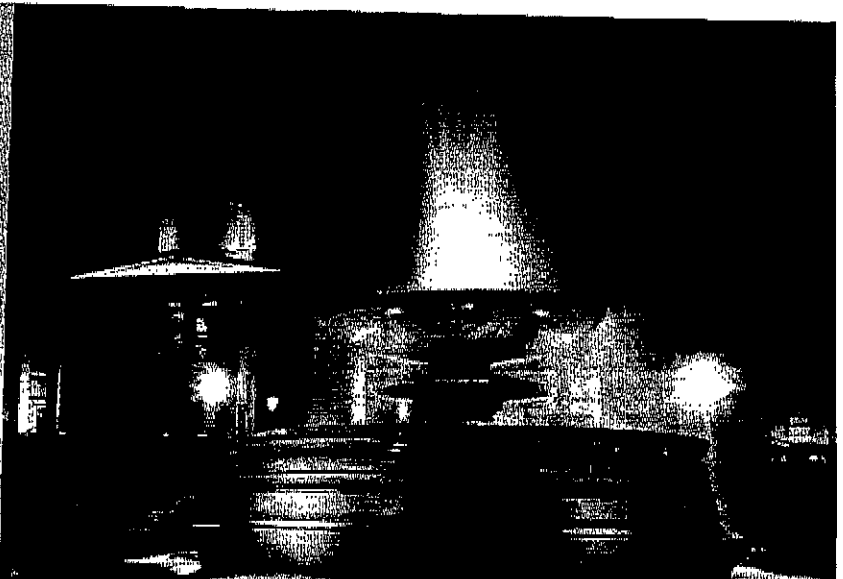
- Latin Quarter

Visit Notre Dame Cathedral

DAY 9: Depart for home

Guided Sightseeing of London

Join a local guide on your tour of London, an international melting pot and Europe's largest city. From the London Bridge to the Houses of Parliament, Great Britain's royal tradition and rich history greet you as you visit. Admire the city's architectural marvels, like the Baroque domes and spires of St. Paul's Cathedral, the 17th-century church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Check out the lively five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus as well as Hyde Park's urban greenery. You may even get a chance to witness the ceremonial Changing of the Guard. Cap off your sightseeing tour beside the River Thames, where you can snap photos of the Tower of London.



Trafalgar Square
London, England

Windsor Castle

Visit Windsor Castle, one of the official residences of the British monarch and currently used for state and private functions. Legend holds that King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table once convened at this former fortress. On your excursion, see priceless objects in the State Apartments, like paintings by Rubens and Holbein as well as Henry VIII's suit of armor. Encounter the Gothic splendor of St. George's Chapel, final resting place of many monarchs including Henry VIII and Charles I, then take a look into the miniature world of Queen Mary II's Dolls' House, where many of the castle's items are replicated in 1/12 scale. The house even includes a working lighting system and functional plumbing!



Windsor Castle
Windsor, England

Tower of London

Enter through thick defensive walls and take a look behind the Tower of London's imposing stony façade. Henry VIII banished two of his wives to this former prison, where Guy Fawkes also spent his final days. But the Tower's most famous occupant—the Crown Jewels—still resides here today. On your tour, behold this jaw-dropping collection of ornate rings, scepters, swords and royal vestments. Venture outside for a walk through the courtyard, where you can admire the four distinctive turrets rising out of the White Tower. Keep an eye out for the Tower's famous ravens; legend states that the kingdom will fall if any of the six resident ravens ever leaves the Tower Grounds.



Tower of London
London, England

Educational travel prepares students for long-term success.

We commissioned a survey of thousands of young adults who are now 20 to 21 years old and who took an EF tour in high school. What we discovered is that taking an EF educational tour is life changing, setting students up for success in their personal and professional lives.

- Students surveyed said they are better at thinking critically and solving problems because of their EF experience.
- Nearly every student is earning a BA or higher. About 80% maintain a college grade point average above 3.0; nearly half earn a GPA between 3.5 and 4.0.
- More than 80% report becoming better communicators and collaborators as a result of their international experience.

EF is #1 in educational travel.

- ✓ **EF is the most reputable student travel organization**, with 45 years of experience and schools and offices in more than 50 countries.
- ✓ **We guarantee the lowest prices** because we believe in making travel possible for everyone.
- ✓ **All of our itineraries are educational**, featuring experiential learning activities and visits to the best sites. Expert local guides add in-depth knowledge along the way.
- ✓ **Safety is our top priority.** We have hundreds of offices around the world, with local staff who can assist your group anywhere you travel. Plus, parents can always reach us 24 hours a day at our headquarters.
- ✓ **Your 24-hour EF Tour Director** stays with your group around the clock on tour, providing insight about your destination as well as great tips.

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Check out other EF travelers' pictures at flickr.com/groups/efitours



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Ask your teacher for the tour number and use one of the following methods:

• **Enroll online at**
efitours.com/enroll/

• **Mail an enrollment form to:**
• **Call 1-800-350-2255**

EF Educational Tours
One Education Street
Danbury, CT 06811



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