


Extended Field Studies

Public Board Meeting
February 10th, 2021

Extended Field Studies

1. Background and Scope
 2. Covid-19 - Impact
 3. Policy and Regulations
 4. Questions and Discussion
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Extended Field Studies

- The Surrey School District has a long, history of successful extended field studies for students
- Schools in Surrey participate in over 400 extended field studies per year
- These range from local experiences such as athletic events, robotic competitions, or band festivals to international experiences



Extended Field Studies

- Extended Field Studies are defined as field studies involving absences from the lower mainland for more than 3 consecutive days, higher risk activities, or international travel
- Surrey schools participate in approximately 60 extended field studies involving international travel each year



Extended Field Studies Outside of B.C.

In 2018-19, Surrey Students have travelled to:

Netherlands

Spain

France

Italy

Germany

England

Wales

Ireland

Belgium

Paris

Belgium

Greece

Switzerland

Austria

Poland

Japan

China

Dominican Republic

Malaysia

South Africa

Calgary

Edmonton

Montreal

Charlottetown

Halifax

Ottawa

Winnipeg

Los Angeles

Seattle

Orlando

Hawaii

Houston

Louisville

Idaho

New York

New Orleans


Portland

San Diego

Santa Clara

Las Vegas

International Field Studies – Covid-19

- Covid-19 has disrupted or altered many facets of people's lives and work
 - With the onset of Covid-19, the Surrey School District had to cancel 53 international field studies
 - With such a significant world event comes the need to pause and adjust how the District facilitates and supports extended field studies moving forward
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Extended Field Studies – Policy & Regulation

- Significant policy and regulations are already in place
- Extended Field Studies are governed by Policy 8901 and Regulation 8901.1 and 8901.2
- These include allowable destinations, duration away from school, supervision ratio, supervisor responsibilities, first aid requirements, student conduct, drugs/alcohol/vaping, financial controls, and conflict of interest
- All Extended Field Studies requires the approval of the school principal and the assistant superintendent



REGULATION #8901.1 STUDENT FIELD STUDIES - GENERAL

1. CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES


- 1.1. Student field studies are to be directly related to the curriculum and undertaken only to enhance or add value to the learning experience beyond that which is available in the classroom.
- 1.2. Specific educational objectives for the learning experience are to be clearly in mind prior to planning the field study and subsequently, all activities should be directed to achieve these ends.
- 1.3. Evaluation of field studies is recommended to determine that the field study, as a whole, has enhanced the classroom learning experience commensurate with the costs and risks involved.

2. PLANNING

- 2.1. Educators-in-Charge will obtain the preliminary approval of the principal for field studies before communicating with parents, making commitments or commencing fundraising.

Extended Field Studies – Policy & Regulation

The proposed changes to policy & regulations are intended to:

- (i) Increase the safety of staff and students and the District's ability to respond to emergencies
 - (ii) Increase financial protection for our parents/guardians and the Board of Education in the event an extended field study is cancelled
 - (iii) Provide clarity to the educators who organize these field experiences
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Extended Field Studies – Proposed Regulation Changes:

1. Requiring all extended field studies involving out-of-province travel, or air travel, to be arranged through one of the District pre-approved travel service providers.
 - This provides an added level of protection
 - It allows for the District to work with companies who can respond in the event of an emergency
 - It allows for consistency of contract terms and conditions

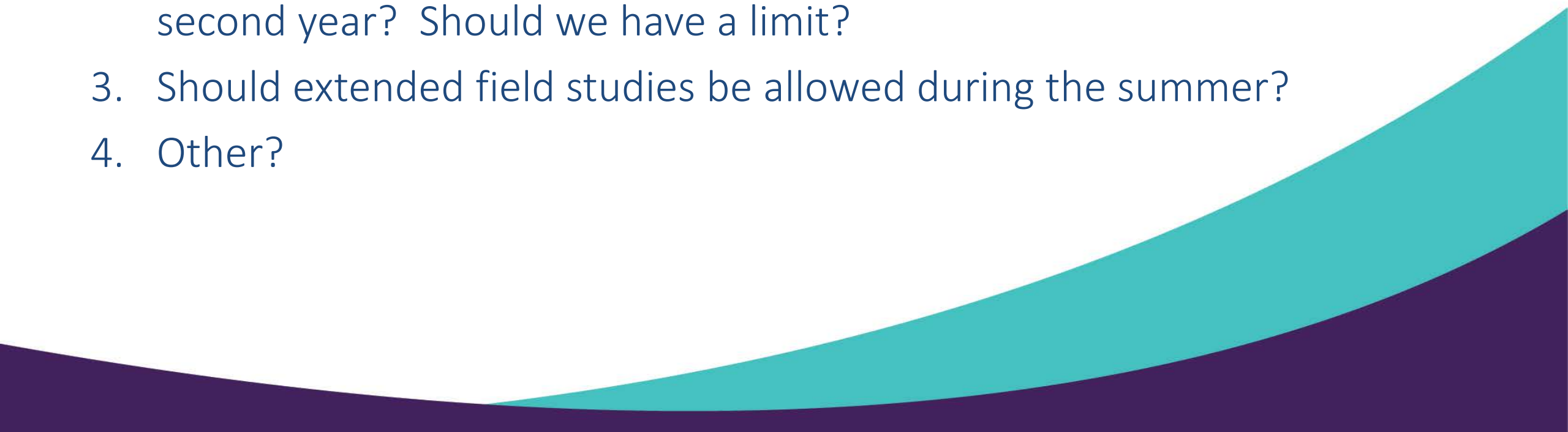
Extended Field Studies – Proposed Regulation Changes:

2. Requiring all extended field studies involving out-of-province travel, or air travel, to purchase trip cancellation insurance for all participants as part of the cost of the trip.
 - This allows for consistency of contracts and coverage
 - This ensures all participants have are covered financially in the event the trip is cancelled
 - This ensures there are no surprises for our parents/guardians


Extended Field Studies – Proposed Regulation Changes:

3. Requiring payment for extended field studies to be made by cheque from a school account or by P-card. Personal credits should only be used for emergent expenses arising during the field study.
 - Financial controls are already in place
 - Making this requirement explicit in the extended field study regulation

Questions for the Board

1. Should spouses/partners be permitted as supervisors? Should supervisors be allowed to bring their children?
 2. Extended field studies are significant undertakings. How often should staff members be participating as supervisors? Once per year? Every second year? Should we have a limit?
 3. Should extended field studies be allowed during the summer?
 4. Other?
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Extended Field Studies – Next Steps

- Recommendations will be forwarded to Policy Committee
 - The District will begin working on implementation with schools and district departments
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“Thank you”

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