



Board of Directors Business Meeting
Agenda Action Item

Item Title

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-COUNTRY SERVICE AND STUDY TOUR REQUEST FROM SAMI, SOTA, AND IDEA TO CAMBODIA AND LAOS, JANUARY 3, 2026 - JANUARY 28, 2026

Department

Athletics & Activities

Board Meeting Date

October 9, 2025

Background

Service and Study tours provide students with in-depth experience working alongside people in regions we visit to gain a better understanding of cultures different from our own, build lifelong friendships, and become global citizens. Through this service and study tour, students will be exposed to another culture and will have an opportunity to learn firsthand about the culture, history, and human rights of another country while studying the history and everyday life in Cambodia and Laos. The service-learning program seeks to develop the well-rounded citizen by integrating academic study with substantive volunteer service. While abroad, students will gain a deeper understanding and knowledge by immersing themselves in life in Cambodia and Laos, speaking the language, and encountering different parts of their culture and society. Students will be provided the opportunity to experience a blend of traditional culture and modern life. Students will also have the chance to encounter, firsthand, age-old traditional activities. The opportunities for expanded learning in new and unfamiliar environments create a powerful dynamic between direct exposure and traditional academic scholarship.

Current Consideration

It is requested that the Board of Directors approve the out-of-country trip for 3 staff and 15 students from SAMI, SOTA, and iDEA to travel to Cambodia and Laos, from January 3, 2026 - January 28, 2026.

Fiscal Implication

The estimated cost of travel is \$49,200.00 which will be paid by students, families, fundraising, and scholarships for qualifying students.

Recommendation

The Deputy Superintendent, on behalf of the Director of Athletics & Activities, recommends that the Board of Directors approve the out-of-country trip for 3 staff and 15 students from SAMI, SOTA, and iDEA to travel to Cambodia and Laos, from January 3, 2026 - January 28, 2026. [Funding Source: Students, families, fundraising, and scholarships for qualifying students]

Strategic Benchmark

Partnership and Participation

Approved By Deputy Superintendent, Lisa A. Nolan, Ph.D.