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September 7, 2016

Dear Madam,

I am acknowledging your correspondence dated of September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 regarding the “Perspective mondiale” course and the “Élèves sans frontière” trip. In this letter, you will find the beginning of my reply to the various points you have raised.

First of all, I would like to point out that “Perspective mondiale” and “Élèves sans frontière” are two very distinct entities. Indeed, a student cannot participate to the international trip without having taken “Perspective mondiale”, but on the other hand, some students take the course without participating to “Élèves sans frontière”. For the course, all students get 4 credits that is the equivalent to 120 hours of in class attendance.

When this initiative was first implemented, we were living in a different world, somewhat safer, somewhat more stable. Wars were already occurring, epidemics were already ravaging certain area of the planet, but events seemed less volatile and the target easier to identify.

Nowadays, things have changed. Should we put the blame on our media oriented society? Regardless, it would seem that it is no longer possible to offer the same level of safety to students traveling abroad than we used to. Organisation like ours are, more and more, at the mercy of events that are totally unpredictable. Many school boards not only across the province but across the country as well are compelled to put a moratorium on such activities. For example, Nanaimo school district, after the situation some of its students had to face in Nice, France, last July, has suspended all overseas travel for the next two years.

School District #93 (CSF) has managed, up to now, to avoid putting the safety of the its participating students at risk. Sometimes following the aftermath of tense situations. Such as, in 2015, the school board was modifying the itinerary of the Yaakar trip following the Ebola outbreak as well as the jihadist threats in Senegal. In 2016, its annual trip to France was given a new destination due to the security measures implemented in that country following the November 13<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks.

Next September 16<sup>th</sup>, the CSF Board of Directors will decide if the overseas trips are to be maintained. The Board is completely aware of the impact its decisions could have on the students and their family. The Board also knows that the realization of such projects can only be confirmed at the last minute. It always keeps in mind that safety is always the school board number one priority.

I thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kind regards.

Bertrand Dupain  
Superintendent



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