DECISION PAPER

TO: Member of the Hardin County Board of Education

FROM: Teresa Morgan, Superintendent

DATE: November 16, 2023

SUBJECT: WHMS Trip to Washington, D.C. via commercial carrier

**Request**: The West Hardin Middle School 8th grade team is asking permission to transport up to 200 Hardin County students out of state through commercial transportation coach buses (Worldstrides Company). Commercial carrier is being used for cost efficiency and to avoid staffing shortages in transportation. This request is based on a plan to visit Washington, D.C. from April 2, 2024, through April 6, 2024 (Spring Break).

Parents have the opportunity to purchase travel insurance on the trip for an additional $99. If travel restrictions should be put in place before the trip, families that have purchased the insurance will receive all but the price of the insurance back. For families that do not purchase insurance, all but $175 of the trip will be refunded. This is through the company, not the school.

**Discussion:**

A. The students will be paying a fee of approximately $1,287 each. There will be one chaperone per 10 students whose expenses are discounted by the school offsetting the

cost. The trip is intended to enhance the Social Studies and Arts Curriculum as well as

provide an otherwise unlikely opportunity.

B. **Content Area**:

Government

US History

Geography

**Activity:**

White House

Washington Monument

Library of Congress

Arlington National Cemetery

Embassy Row

Vietnam War Memorial

Lincoln Memorial

Korean War Memorial

FDR Memorial

Holocaust Memorial Museum

Union Station

World War II Memorial

Jefferson Memorial

Iwo Jima Memorial

Pentagon Memorial

National Archives

MLK Jr. Memorial

Smithsonian: Air and Space

Natural History Museum

American History Museum

Pentagon City Mall

National Zoo

C. With Board approval, we will depart on the morning of April 2, 2024, and return on the evening of April 6, 2024. Students will not miss any school. Chaperones will be

provided by West Hardin. Approving this trip now will provide students/families with

ample time to plan and prepare for the trip.

**Recommendation:** I recommend the Hardin County Board of Education allow the West

Hardin Social Studies department (8th graders) to use commercial coach transportation for cost efficiency to transport up to 200 Hardin County students to Washington, D.C. from April 2-6, 2024.

**Recommended Motion:** I move that the Hardin County Board of Education allow the

West Hardin Social Studies department (8th graders) to use commercial coach transportation for cost efficiency to transport up to 200 Hardin County students to Washington, D.C. from April 2-6, 2024.