

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

Consent Agenda • Date: November 10, 2025

Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Model UN to University of Chicago

Category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Policy
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Relations	

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input type="checkbox"/>

Facts of this Matter:

1. Travel destination and dates: University of Chicago from February 5-8, 2026. We plan to leave Thursday, February 5th at 9:00 am and will be home by 5:30 pm on Sunday, February 8th.
2. Who is attending: 30 student members of the Model UN club and two chaperones will attend. The grades involved include 9th to 12th grade students.
3. Synopsis of the trip: The University of Chicago conference is one of the top 5 conferences in the United States. The event has students participate in a high-level debate with students from around the area on current world issues. This competition highlights several important skills such as public speaking, research, and conflict resolution.
4. Administrator who reviewed: Matt Walter

Transportation	A charter bus will be used for transportation to and from Chicago.
Parent Permission Obtained	Parents will fill out the overnight permission slip form for their student and then return it to Mrs. Boutilier or Mr. Magoni for their student to participate in the event. Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Once approved, students interested in going to the conference will pick up a permission slip from Magoni/Boutilier in the month of November.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The students will have their parent(s) complete the overnight permission form and review the itinerary for the conference. - Students will return the permission slip to Magoni/Boutilier with an \$85 deposit.
Cost to Students/Families	<p>The total cost to the family will be around \$370 depending on the number of students who attend.</p> <p>To help offset the cost we hold our own Model UN conference at the school and the funds go to off-set the cost of the trip for the students.</p>
About Supervision	There will be two adults going to the conference, Mr. Magoni and Mrs. Boutilier. We try to keep the ratio of 15 students to 1 chaperone. With this metric, it would not be possible for only one of us to take the group to the event. We also have had parent interest in attending our conferences and would reach out for a parent volunteer if needed. At that point, we would do a background check through school services.
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (if there is one)	None available for this event.

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

As a teaching method, the model UN has been proven-effective. Students role-play various countries in the world. They learn about the history, politics, and foreign policies of several countries and begin to understand the importance of the United Nations in the world today. Students become familiar with several international problems or issues and experience the give and take of diplomacy as they attempt to pass resolutions in their councils. The model provides an opportunity for them to improve their public speaking and debate skills and to learn some parliamentary procedure. They will begin to learn the skills of how to work constructively in a group when members of the group disagree on how to achieve a particular goal. The experience is a win-win situation for students

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

Students will miss 2 days of class. The cost of the trip may prohibit some students from participating in this specific event.

Financial Implications, if any:

ZCS will cover the cost of guest teachers for Mr. Magoni and Mrs. Boutilier. All other costs are covered by the students and families.

Opinion/Recommendation:

This trip is recommended for approval.