

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

Consent Agenda • Date: September 14, 2026

Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Model UN to Notre Dame

Category:

☐ Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	☐ Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	☐ Board Policy
☐ Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	☒ Student Services	☐ Other
☐ Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	☐ Community Relations	

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	☒
Discussion	☐
Report	☐

Facts of this Matter:

1. Destination and Travel Dates: University of Notre Dame, October 1-4, 2026. Departure will be after school on October 1.
2. Who is attending: 30 students in grades 10-12 and 2 chaperones will attend.
3. Synopsis of the trip: The Notre Dame University Model UN conference 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 ZCS school bus will take the students to Notre Dame on Thursday and return to pick them up on Sunday.
Parent Permission Obtained	Students interested in going to the conference will pick up a permission slip from Mrs. Boutilier. Parents will complete the overnight permission form and review the itinerary for the conference. Students will then return the signed permission form to Mrs. Boutilier.
Cost to Students/Families	Students and families are responsible for all expenses. The estimated cost of delegate, school fees and hotel will be around \$350 per student. We are still waiting for information from the Notre Dame Model UN about rooming costs.
About Supervision	Ashely Boutilier and Danielle Wilson will chaperone the trip.

	In case one would be unable to go, another staff member will attend the event. Parent volunteers may also be sought.
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (if there is one)	There is none for this event. Once the student commits to attending the fees are not refundable.

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 one day of school, and trip is somewhat expensive for the students and families.

Financial Implications, if any:

ZCS will incur expenses for transportation and guest teachers for the chaperones.

Opinion/Recommendation:

This trip is recommended for approval.