DUNLAP COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #323
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 18th, 2026

ACTION ITEM

TO: Dr. Scott Dearman, Superintendent
Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Germaine Fairchild, Head Softball Coach
Dunlap High School

SUBJECT: Approval of out-of-state trip to Pigeon Forge, TN for Varsity Softball student-athletes

PROPOSED ACTION:

That the Board of Education approve an out-of-state trip to spring training – The Ripkin Experience in Pigeon Forge, TN for Varsity Softball student-athletes March 28th through April 1st, 2027.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In alignment with the District's Mission, to empower all students to reach their individual potential, the DHS Softball coaching staff recommends that DHS Varsity Softball student-athletes have the opportunity to compete in a national softball tournament:
The High School Softball Ripkin Experience is scheduled for March 28th through April 1st, 2027 with one travel day on the front end of the game dates (5 days/4 nights). The cost of the trip per person is $400, which will be covered by fundraising efforts of the softball program. This includes meals, transportation, accommodations & security, practice time, tournament entry fee, and gratuities. Earned opportunities such as these align with District values and mission to grow our student-athletes in the areas of accountability, diversity, excellence, health and well-being, honesty, individual growth, integrity, open communication, respect, safety, teamwork, and trust. Team trips help students create life-long memories, strengthen the team bond, build relationships, and develop a deeper understanding of the value of leadership, all of which will increase the likelihood of team success during the season, and a long-term emotional connection to Dunlap High School. Other local high school softball programs such as Washington, Canton, Pekin and Metamora have taken their teams on similar trips and have expressed how invaluable the opportunity was to all those involved, including the enhanced scheduling opportunities.

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The DHS softball program projects enough fundraising success to ensure all student-athletes have the opportunity to make the trip regardless of financial need.