

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting "Item for Consideration"

Consent Agenda • Date: January 12, 2026

Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip

Category:

_____ Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	_____ Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	_____ Board Policy
_____ Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	<u> X </u> Student Services	_____ Other
_____ Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	_____ Community Relations	

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	<u> X </u>
Discussion	_____
Report	_____

Facts of this Matter:

1. Columbia Scholastic Press Association Spring National Convention in New York, NY from Wednesday, March 18, 2026 to Saturday, March 21, 2026.
2. 8 ZCHS Yearbook editors, 1 adviser
3. Students will attend an intense three-day convention focused on advancing their journalism skills and understanding of media. This convention will provide students with access to professionals and journalism experts as well as the opportunity to present a session at a national convention. Students will learn to implement journalism trends and skills and also participate in journalism contests. The students attending also are CSPA Crown Finalists and will be presented with their national award at the convention.
4. Matt Walter, ZCHS Assistant Principal

Transportation	Flight
Parent Permission Obtained	After school board consideration, parents will be given details of the trip and asked to sign a letter of intent and provide a deposit. At that time, overnight field trip forms and a detailed payment plan for the remainder of the costs will be shared with parents.
Cost to Students/Families	Flight: \$263.88 per person on Delta x9=\$2374.99 (based on currently available rates) Hotel: \$363.99 per night x 3 nights x 3 rooms = 3275.91(based on quadruple occupancy for student rooms) Registration for convention: \$215/ student = \$1935 total Subway fare: \$20/person = \$180 Group dinner: \$300 Broadway tickets: \$80 x 9= \$720.00

	<p>Total: \$8785.90 \$/1098.23 per student</p> <p>Paid for by ZCHS Student Media funds: \$1585.90 total (provided through student-run ad sales) Paid for by students: \$900 per student (plus costs of meals while on trip) Paid for by district: cost of full-day substitute for 2.5 school days</p> <p>Additional ad sales opportunities are available to help offset costs.</p> <p>Prices are based on 8 students, 1 teacher with current available rates</p>
About Supervision	<p>Student Media adviser Lauren Wagner will supervise the trip. A volunteer chaperone who passes the school's required background check may also be asked to participate. If the adviser Lauren Wagner is unable to attend, every effort will be made to secure a replacement teacher to accompany the trip.</p>
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (if there is one)	<p>Students unable to attend after the payment deadline has passed will be refunded all travel and convention costs that are eligible for a refund. An effort will be made to try to find a replacement student if costs can no longer be refunded.</p>

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

Students will practice soft skills as well as journalism skills when interacting with media professionals. Students will have the opportunity to see how other students from around the U.S. approach similar goals and challenges. The nature of the conference will allow editors to bring back an actionable plan and teachable skills to share with other journalism students as well as insight into careers in media. Students will put together a session proposal for the conference and have the opportunity to present, practice problem solving, compete in journalism contests with opportunities to win awards, and demonstrate independence in navigating a national conference in a new city. This trip is optional.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

The location, cost, and nature of the conference only allow a smaller group of students to attend instead of all journalism students. 2.5 days of class instruction will be missed. The cost may be unaffordable for some families, even after advertising sales fundraising.

Financial Implications, if any:

The price per student is \$1098.23 per student. A portion of that cost will be supplemented by student-run advertising sales, bringing the cost for families down to \$900 per student. Additional ad sales opportunities may be available to help offset more of the costs. The cost to the district is cost of a full-day substitute for 2.5 school days.

Opinion/Recommendation:

This trip is recommended for approval.