

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

New Business Item 6d • Date: February 9, 2026

ZCS Facility Usage Fees

Category:

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

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

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

Facts of this Matter:

Zionsville Community Schools’ tax-supported facilities are in use not only for the school day and extra-curricular ZCS activities, but also for many non-ZCS evening and weekend events. In recognition that outside usage has an impact on the costs of utilities and wear-and tear to facilities, as well as the need to support ongoing operations in ZCS, a facility usage fee structure was approved by the School Board going back even as far as 2009. These fees are administered by the Office of Special Projects, the Star Bank Performing Arts Center and the ZCS Aquatics Center. As established years ago, tiers of fees were designed to recognize that certain organizations are an outgrowth or “feeder” program for our own activities while others may be completely distinct from our own programming and community. Still, opportunities to promote self-help in gaining a revenue stream for ZCS, especially with these specific fees in the Operations Fund, are critical to our operations during continued financial challenges. As such, and over the last several months, the Leadership Team has carried out an analysis of the existing fee schedule and is now providing a recommendation to update that schedule as costs have increased and market conditions have changed since the last revision.

The majority of the changes from the previous fee schedule were to include new spaces that were not contemplated in the previous version, and to be certain that utility cost calculations were accurate to the individual location of the specific facility. For instance, the Soccer/LAX stadium was added to the schedule, and the ZCHS East Community Room was renamed and assigned the correct Maintenance/Utility cost amount for ZCHS. Additional alignments were made to account for the usage of softball fields and increased cleaning and supply costs.

The Leadership Team does request and recommend that the Board authorize the Superintendent or designee to waive some or all fees for certain civic or organization-alike uses such as Fire Department or Police Department trainings, and other uses that may be required by law or in case of emergency such as in the event of a natural disaster.

We would also note that efforts have been made to minimize increases in costs to feeder groups and non-profit organizations (Class “B” on the schedule). All organizations with existing reservations will be charged on the previously agreed-upon rates, and the new rates would go into effect beginning July 1, 2026 to provide time for communication and planning.

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

The ZCS Board of Trustees has long maintained the practice of ensuring that the use of ZCS facilities by outside groups remains cost-neutral at minimum and in accordance to Policy 7510. The recommended schedule continues that practice and promotes opportunities for the self-help that is needed to sustain our operations in light of recent property tax revenue changes.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

None identified.

Financial Implications, if any:

Continued income from ZCS facility use is critical to the ongoing operations of Zionsville Community Schools. Approval of this fee schedule will allow this practice to continue and expand to an appropriate degree.

Opinion/Recommendation:

Approval.

Suggested Wording for a Motion:

I move to approve the 2026 ZCS Facility Usage Fee Schedule and to authorize the Superintendent or designee to waive the assessment of certain fees as presented.