

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

CONSENT AGENDA • Date: May 11, 2026

Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip

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

1. Taiwan, March 24-April 2, 2027
2. Priority is given to students in the Mandarin program, including those from both middle schools and high school.
3. This trip is all about getting out of the classroom and into the culture. The goal is to level up our Mandarin skills through real-life practice—whether that’s chatting with local students, navigating the energy of a night market, or following a recipe in a traditional kitchen. By balancing time at the National Palace Museum with hikes through Taiwan's backyards, we’re looking to soak up as much history and local life as possible.
4. Administrator approving: Dr. Shawn Wooden

Transportation	Our group will fly out of Indianapolis and arrive in Taoyuan International Airport in Taiwan. On-site transportation and activity coordination are to be handled by “Parkbus Taiwan” and “My Taiwan Tour.”
Parent permission obtained	Parent permission will be obtained via the registration and payment process. All parents will be required to complete and sign the ZCS Off-Campus Programs and Trips Information Form
Cost to students/families	<p>Approximately \$4000 (Program \$2,200, airfare \$1,600, supplemental insurance \$200). This cost is subject to change based on fluctuating flight prices and the final number of participants.</p> <p>The total fees charged will include group airfare, private in-country transportation, hotel, meals, admission ticket, and insurance. Passport fees and personal spending money are not included.</p>

About supervision	The trip will be led by Mandarin teacher Chen-Lien Hsu. A second staff member will be added based on final enrollment to maintain our goal of a 9:1 student-to-chaperone ratio. All non-ZCS staff chaperones must pass a background check prior to the trip.
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (If there is one)	The licensed tour operator provides mandatory insurance for all participants, covering medical expenses, personal accidents, and AD&D. We will purchase additional coverage to supplement our existing policy, such as non-medical evacuation.
Any Additional information	Students are eligible for refund on non-refundable payments if they include 'Cancel For Any Reason' (CFAR) coverage in their insurance policy. The reimbursement percentage decreases as the departure date approaches.

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

This trip to Taiwan offers an immersive environment where students can learn and grow outside the classroom. As a hub of world technology, Taiwan provides a unique look at global innovation and history. Through school visits and local interaction, students will build real-world connections and gain a broader international perspective.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

The main drawbacks are the cost and the fact that students might miss two days of school. We are currently aligning the trip dates with the local high school calendar to minimize this impact.

Financial Implications, if any:

The district needs to cover the cost of substitute coverage for a maximum of two days.

Families will have one year to plan and budget.

Opinion/Recommendation:

This trip is recommended for approval.