

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

Consent Agenda • Date: September 8, 2025

Out-of-State Field Trip

Category:

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

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

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

Facts of this Matter:

The 7th and 8th grade social studies teachers at Zionsville West Middle School (ZWMS) are organizing a trip to Washington, D.C. for the 2026-2027 ZWMS 8th grade class from Wednesday, October 21 – Friday, October 23, 2026. Students and their parents/guardians will arrange their own transportation to and from Indianapolis International Airport for the departing and returning flights. Students will be on the field trip during three days of school. We may need to offer financial assistance to students who require it. There is a scholarship application form that was successfully implemented last year that is used to distribute available funds for financial assistance.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Transportation | Flights to/from Indianapolis International Airport to Washington, D.C. and bus transportation around Washington, D.C. will be organized by Nation’s Classroom |
| Parent permission obtained | We will obtain permission when parents & students sign up |
| Cost to students/families | \$1,609 for students (4 to a room) and \$1,709 for adults (2 to a room) |
| Adult supervision | We will have at least one adult for every 10 students. ZWMS teachers will lead each group on the airplane/bus. A professional security company monitors the hallways at night during the hotel stay. |

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

- It is an opportunity to see our nation’s capital city and learn about our nation’s history, and about art, architecture, and the sciences. It should inspire students and be an unforgettable experience.
- Our objective is to allow as many 8th grade students as possible to attend. This trip has grown in popularity over the years because it has been regularly scheduled and is now seen as the rite of passage for 8th graders to attend.
- If every student attends, it makes it easier on staff coverage for substitute teachers for those staff members who are gone. We have never achieved this, but we have moved closer to this goal in the past few years with about 75% of the 8th grade classes.
- We will plan to fly with the earliest departure possible and the latest return possible while prioritizing non-stop flights.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

- The cost is over \$1,600 to the students and their families, and there is the possibility that because of this cost, some students may not be able to attend.
- We will miss three days of school at ZWMS. Students will miss classes and will need to catch up with missed work, especially those who attend high school classes.

Opinion/Recommendation:

Financial Implications, if any: There seems to be no negative financial impact on the school corporation.