

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

Consent Agenda • Date: March 9, 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"/> Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Relations
	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Policy
	<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. **Dates:** April 21-24, 2026
2. **Who is attending:** ZCHS Robotics Teams who qualify for the event.
3. **Purpose:** Participation in the Vex Robotics World Championships in St. Louis, MO.
4. **Administrator approving:** Matt Walter

Transportation	Airline tickets or ground transportation will be purchased directly by the students/families. Students will most likely be transported by their own parents, as flights and chartered transportation are not efficient or cost-effective.
Parent Permission Obtained	We will use the ZCHS Overnight permission form and/or the Exceptional Opportunity Waiver for each student. Families will be heavily involved in the planning of this trip.
Cost to Students/Families	<p>Students/families will be responsible for travel expenses that are not covered by sponsorships or fundraising. Hotel rooms are quoted at roughly \$250 per night. The families will also share in the cost of shipping equipment and travel expenses for the sponsors, should they need to attend. Depending upon room occupancy, the total travel and lodging cost is estimated at \$600-\$1000 per student.</p> <p>In the past, the club has been successful in securing corporate sponsorship to offset costs to the families.</p> <p>Many of the students likely to qualify for this event have known about the costs for up to one year in advance.</p>

About Supervision	Club sponsors Mr. Kitts and/or Mrs. Gray will attend the event. In the event of a sponsor not being available, we will make sure that parents who are traveling with their children have a background check on file in case they have to take on a supervisory role. Many parents travel to this event with their students.
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (if there is one)	Airline tickets (if used) will be purchased directly by the students/families. The refund/exchange policies of the airline will apply to those individuals directly. If the total cost of the trip can be reduced by someone who cancels, they will be refunded accordingly. Otherwise, there is risk of that student not receiving a refund for hotel rooms that are shared.
Any Additional Information	None

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

This is a capstone experience for the students involved in the club who have set a goal to reach this event. The event is very well run and is focused on the student experience. Students have the opportunity to collaborate with peers from all around the United States and the world.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

Students will miss 3-4 days of school, and the trip is somewhat expensive.

Financial Implications, if any:

The ZCHS Robotics club will cover the team entry fee of \$1800 per team, assuming a reasonably low number of teams qualify. If more teams qualify (6 teams are currently competing to qualify, this may change if more teams qualify for the Indiana State Championship), some of this expense may have to be passed on to the participating families.

Families can expect to pay between \$600-\$1000 for travel and lodging.

If Mrs. Gray attends, ZCS will incur the cost of a guest teacher to cover her classes.

Opinion/Recommendation:

This trip is recommended for approval.