

# Zionsville Community Schools

*Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”*

**Consent Agenda • Date: 8/11/2025**

## 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:

- The National Scholastic Press Association Fall National Convention is taking place in Nashville, TN from Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025 to Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025.
- 16 ZCHS Student Media students, 1 adviser, and volunteer chaperones are requesting permission to attend this event.
- ZCHS Media 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. Students will learn to implement journalism trends and skills and also participate in journalism writing competitions.
- Matt Walter, ZCHS Assistant Principal, has approved this itinerary.

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Transportation             | Charter bus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Parent Permission Obtained | After school board approval, 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  | Charter bus: \$65 per person on Royal Transportation bus (shared transportation with other schools) x 17= \$1105<br>Hotel: \$280.13 per night x 3 nights x 5 rooms = \$4201.95 (based on quadruple occupancy for student rooms, double for chaperones)<br>Registration for convention: \$125 / student = \$2000.00 total<br>Group dinner: \$300<br>Total: \$7606.95 |

|                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                            | <p>Paid for by ZCHS Student Media funds: \$406.88 total (provided through student-run ad sales)<br/> <b>Paid for by students: \$450 per student (plus costs of meals while on trip)</b><br/>         Paid for by district: cost of full-day substitute for 2 school days</p> <p>Additional ad sales opportunities are available to help offset costs. In addition, need-based scholarships for the student registration fee are available through the NSPA national convention committee.</p> <p>Prices are based on 16 students, 1 teacher with currently available rates.</p> |
| About Supervision                                          | <p>Student Media adviser Lauren Wagner will supervise the trip. Volunteer chaperones who pass the school's required background check will 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 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. Two 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 \$475.43. A portion of that cost will be supplemented by student-run advertising sales at the beginning of the school year, bringing the cost for families down to \$450 per student. Additional ad sales opportunities may be available to help offset more of the costs. In addition, some scholarships for the student registration fee are available through the NSPA national convention committee. The cost to the district is cost of a full-day substitute for 2 school days.

**Opinion/Recommendation:**

This trip is recommended for approval.