

# Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

**Consent Agenda • Date: January 13, 2025**

## Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Model UN Trip to University of Chicago

### Category:

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

### 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. Travel Destination and Dates:  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Leaving 8:30 am February 6, 2025 and returning February 9, 2025 around 6:00pm
2. Who is attending:  
30 students from Zionsville Community High School Model UN club and 2-3 teacher/advisors to Chaperone the event.
3. Provide a synopsis of the purpose for the trip:  
The Model United Nations club would like to attend the University of Chicago conference in February. The University of Chicago conference is one of the top 5 conferences in the United States. The event has students participate in a high-level debate with students from around the country on current world issues. This competition highlights several important skills such as public speaking, research, and conflict resolution.
4. List administrator who reviewed and approved the travel itinerary.  
Matt Walter

Transportation	Charter bus up and back from Chicago
Parent Permission Obtained	To obtain permission we will send home an overnight field trip permission form that identifies the dates of the trip, where it is taking place and how long the students will be gone. The students have two weeks to bring back the form with a parent signature and a delegate fee of 85 dollars that will hold their place for the trip.

Cost to Students/Families	<p>The total cost for each family will be around \$390.</p> <p>To help offset the cost we host our own Model UN conference at the school and the funds go to offset the cost of the trip for the students.</p>
About Supervision	<p>Paul Magoni and Brandon Mooradian are set to supervise the trip.</p> <p>An alternate staff member will fill in if one of the supervisors is unable to attend.</p>
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (if there is one)	<p>We are unable to refund students if they decide not to participate after the January deadline.</p> <p>The per person cost is determined based on the number who initially commit and given to the students as a flat fee to minimize expense. Once that amount is set, no refunds are available.</p>

**Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:**

As a teaching method, the model UN has been proven-effective. Students role-play various countries in the world. They learn about the history, politics, and foreign policies of several countries and begin to understand the importance of the United Nations in the world today. Students become familiar with several international problems or issues and experience the give and take of diplomacy as they attempt to pass resolutions in their councils. The model provides an opportunity for them to improve their public speaking and debate skills and to learn some parliamentary procedure. They will begin to learn the skills of how to work constructively in a group when members of the group disagree on how to achieve a particular goal. The experience is a win-win situation for students

**Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:**

The students will miss two days of class, and the event is somewhat costly to attend.

**Financial Implications, if any:**

The only financial cost will be to the students that attend and their families. The estimated cost will be \$390. This is dependent on the number of students who plan to attend. If a student backs out or is unable to go after the January deadline they will forfeit the cost of the trip. ZCS will incur the cost of guest teachers to cover chaperones' classes.

**Opinion/Recommendation:**

This trip is recommended for approval.