

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

New Business Item 6c • Date: January 12, 2026

ELC/ESC Inflation Reduction Act Rebate Consultant Agreement

Category:

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

In August 2025, the ZCS Board of School Trustees authorized the Leadership Team, Skillman, and Fanning Howey to award contracts for the construction of the new Early Learning Center/Educational Services Center, planned to be open for children in Fall of 2027. As has been presented previously, the design of that facility includes several high efficiency elements and systems designed to reduce operating costs to a fraction of the cost of typical facilities. These designs include geothermal heating and cooling as well as rooftop solar energy production. These systems are eligible for credits/rebates back to ZCS under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and there are many firms who work to assist schools and other entities with the necessary paperwork and recordkeeping required to apply for and receive funds. After considering experience in this area is extremely useful, advisable, and valuable, the Leadership Team has vetted several experienced vendors that perform these services and now provides the Board with a recommendation to engage the services of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors in pursuit of the highest possible rebate available under the law. In addition to the financial benefits, Baker Tilly also is licensed to provide tax advice and to file on our behalf in the State of Indiana. This provides a significant service to ZCS over other vendors who cannot perform the actual filing steps and/or are unable to take responsibility for an IRS audit if applicable.

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

Based upon preliminary estimates, ZCS may be eligible for credits under the IRA of several million dollars. Baker Tilly has experience working with Indiana school districts in the past on IRA credits and has successfully filed for IRA credits for other Indiana school districts. Any opportunity to receive credit dollars back to ZCS is positive, and working with a group that has already been successful for other entities is a major factor in the Leadership Team's recommendation.

Objective Negatives related to this item or approach:

These financial services are not provided free of cost, but the cost of such services is allowed to be incorporated into/paid from the IRA credit receipts.

Financial Implications:

ZCS could be eligible for several millions of dollars in IRA credits. It is highly recommended that we pursue such funds in our role to steward the community's financial interests.

The cost to ZCS is quoted at \$74,750 from Baker Tilly. Proposals from other vendors calculated their fees based upon a percentage that would make such costs significantly higher to ZCS than the Baker Tilly proposal. If eligible, and if credits are received by ZCS, we would expect funds to be received sometime in late 2028.

Opinion/Recommendation:

Based on favorable costs to ZCS, a credible history of working with school districts in our State, and a positive track record with similar IRA credits in other Indiana school districts, the Leadership Team recommends entering into an agreement with Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors to assist with the application process for IRA credits for systems in the ELC/ESC building currently under construction.

Suggested Wording for a Motion, if any:

Pending counsel approval, I authorize the Leadership Team to enter into an agreement with Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors to assist in the process to pursue Inflation Reduction credits as presented.