

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

Consent Agenda • Date: May 12, 2025

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"/> Board Policy
<input 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		
Report		

Facts of this Matter:

1. The travel dates are as following: March 22, 2026 - April 4, 2025
2. This trip will include members of ZCHS French Classes and Club.
3. As you may or may not know, ZCHS has participated in a cultural exchange program with a sister school in Alsace, France for many years. This trip will be our “exchange” trip to visit the sister school and participate in the cultural exchange. During this trip, students will first take a trip with Passports Tours to Paris and Versailles and then travel to participate in the exchange. Using a tour company gives the students not only more exposure to French culture, but also the ability to travel with great travel insurance and security.
4. This trip was reviewed and approved by Matt Walter.

Transportation	This trip will include flights from Indianapolis to Paris, France to begin our trip and flights from Zurich, Switzerland to Indianapolis for our return trip home. All transportation during the trip will be arranged by Passports for the tour portion of the trip and our exchange partners at JJ Henner High School when traveling on their field trips. All transportation is included in the price of the trip.
Parent Permission Obtained	If students are interested in traveling, they will fill out the corresponding forms provided by ZCS, including the Travel Liability Card and ZCHS International Travel Form. Students will also register with Passports Tours, who will handle all of the insurance and travel arrangements for our trip.
Cost to Students/Families	The estimated cost of this trip is \$3580 for students which includes five days of travel/tours, admission to museums and monuments, 2 meals a day, insurance, and transportation. The

	<p>total amount may fluctuate based on airport location and dates once travel has been booked. This price also includes transportation to the exchange in Alsace and to the airport for our flight home.</p> <p>By allowing students to sign up for the trip a year ahead of time, they can take advantage of Passport's monthly payment plan with an estimated cost of \$282 per month.</p> <p>Also, once students have registered for the trip, a fund-raising meeting will be held for those who may be interested in offsetting the cost of the trip.</p>
About Supervision	<p>Our field trip will be chaperoned by ZCHS French Teacher Jenna Engelhardt and two other ZCHS teachers. Historically, we have rotated departments among the high school and asked teachers if they'd like to join and/or participate in the exchange. The Passport policy allows for one adult chaperone per every 6 travelers. Once we have obtained at least 18 students, we will vet and search for additional chaperones. Anyone not employed by ZCS will need to have a background check and meet the criteria for field trip chaperones.</p>
Outline COVID Protocols	<p>At this time, there are no COVID protocols in place between the United States and France. Should COVID become a rising issue, we will follow all CDC guidelines and also the advice of the tour company.</p>
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (if there is one)	<p>Since our travel is being arranged through Passport Tours, we will be using their Passport Peace of Mind Program. Students and Parents will also have the ability to add additional travel insurance to their trip (for an additional cost) upon booking with Passports.</p> <p>The entire Passports Peace of Mind Policy is attached to this proposal.</p>
Any Additional Information	<p>We are very hopeful and excited to be able to offer this cultural exchange to our students once again. Working closely with our counterparts in Alsace, we are able to provide our students with the ability to not only see a different culture and place, but to experience it through attending a French school and living alongside French families.</p>

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

We are very hopeful and excited to be able to offer this cultural exchange to our students once again. Working closely with our counterparts in Alsace, we are able to provide our students with the ability to not only see a different culture and place, but to experience it through attending a French school and living alongside French families. Students may be

able to travel Europe on their own, however, getting the face-to-face experience with the daily life of French-speaking people is invaluable to their development and cultural understanding.

Another positive is that this group will be able to do fundraising opportunities within the community. Therefore, allowing us to draw more attention to the program and share with the community our interest in cultural understandings.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

Obviously, one of the biggest barriers to this trip is the cost and time missed from school. In the past, we have missed two days of instruction in school, this year, we are requesting four due to the need to use Passport Tours and time given to experience the exchange. While these are impactful considerations, we believe the experience far outweighs any negatives.

Financial Implications, if any:

ZCS will incur the cost of guest teachers for those faculty members who are traveling on the trip as chaperones.

Opinion/Recommendation:

This trip is recommended for approval.