

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

New Business 6c • Date: August 10, 2026

Request for Permission to Advertise 2027 Budget

Category:

☐ Human Resources, Personnel/Staffing	☐ Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	
☒ Finance, Budgeting, Accounting	☐ Student Services	☐ Board Policy
☐ Facilities, Transportation, Nutrition	☐ Community Relations	☐ Other

Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:

Action	☒
Discussion	☐
Report	☐

Facts of this Matter:

To complete the first phase of the annual budget adoption process, we need the permission of the Board of School Trustees to advertise our proposed budget as required by law.

The state Budget Form 3, Bus Replacement Plan, and Capital Projects Plan for the proposed 2027 budget are each required to be submitted to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) at least ten days prior to the date of the local school district's annual budget hearing per IC 20-40-18. These forms are not required to be published in a newspaper, but under applicable state statutes and DLGF regulations, they must be submitted to the DLGF for publication by DLGF on its official website as well as published on our own district website. The legal requirement is to publish this no later than September 4th, with an internal goal to publish on September 2nd ensuring compliance.

The 2027 budget information for consideration of publication remains in draft form at this time as we finalize details associated with the recently released Certified Net Assessed Value, 26/27 enrollment, and other details pertinent to calendar year 2027. The budget will be finalized prior to publication. The budget hearing scheduled on September 14, 2026 will include detailed information on the issues and ramifications of the budget, as well as the budget process itself. Copies of all required state budget forms and documents as well as supplementary explanatory and analytical material will be provided in a summary format as a concise budget overview for the Board members and the general public.

It should be noted that the proposed budget, once published, cannot be increased. This includes the requirement to advertise as if the Operating Referendum question posed in the November election is approved. However, the Board of School Trustees will have opportunity to reduce the budget as it sees fit as part of the adoption process, as will DLGF. As always, the proposed budget is formulated in such a way as to allow ample room for these reductions to occur.

The proposed budget to be advertised is as consistent as possible with the totals of appropriations and levies for the advertised budget from the prior years while allowing flexibility to meet the ongoing challenges of our growing school district. As we progress through the local adoption and state review and approval process, we are confident that we will be successful in achieving a final set of levies and tax rates that are consistent with our financial goals and commitments to the community.

Financial Implications, if any:

Seeking permission to advertise has no financial impact but serves to inform the Board of School Trustees and public of an impending advertisement. Authorization of this item also ensures compliance with required publication requirements associated with the 2027 Budget.

Opinion/Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of School Trustees authorize the publication of the proposed budget, as well as the proposed Capital Projects Plan and Bus Replacement Plan, as described above. Receipt of permission to advertise now will allow us to fulfill the legal requirements and deadlines in the law to allow our budget hearing to proceed on September 14, 2026.

Suggested Wording for a Motion, if any:

I move to authorize permission to advertise the 2027 budget along with the Bus Replacement and Capital Project Plans as required as required by law.