

Zionsville Community Schools

Board of School Trustees Meeting “Item for Consideration”

Consent Agenda • Date: April 13, 2026

Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip

<u>Category:</u>			
<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	
<u>Type of Board of Trustees Consideration Sought:</u>			
Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Report	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Facts of this Matter:

1. French Exchange Trip 2027
 - a. 3/20/27 - 4/3/27
 - b. Normandy & Brittany (3/20 - 3/25)
 - c. Alsace Host Family Stay (3/25-4/3)

2. Students attending this trip will be those in French courses who are interested in participating in our annual French Exchange Trip with our sister school Lycée JJ Henner in Altkirch, France. There will be one teacher chaperone per 6 paying travelers.

3. Each fall, our students host guest students from Lycée JJ Henner for 10 days in their homes. During this experience, students are able to experience life as an American teenager. This correlates with their “majors” in high school in France being English. The purpose of our trip is to do the same thing by staying with those who hosted us, attending a French high school, and experiencing language and culture immersion.

4. Matt Walter is the administrator who approved this trip.

Transportation	We will fly from Indianapolis to Paris. From there, we will be transported by bus and TGV train to our destinations. We will return to Indianapolis via Zurich, Switzerland.
Parent Permission Obtained	Parents who choose to enroll their children on the trip will complete a form providing me with information such as allergies and specific needs of each student to consider when matching with a host family. Then, they will also register with Passports Travel where they will complete the registration process and handle payment for the trip.

Cost to Students/Families	The cost of this trip is \$3,730. Parents who register and are interested in organizing fundraisers will be encouraged to do so to help offset the cost.
About Supervision	The trip will be supervised by ZCHS Educator Jenna Engelhardt as well as another teacher chaperone for every 6 paying participants. If any parents are interested in joining us for the first part of the trip, they will be required to complete the ZCS background check. In addition, all host families are background checked and vetted by our hosting teachers at Lycée JJ Henner.
Trip Insurance Plan and Refund Procedure (if there is one)	<p>Passports Travel offers included insurance plans and refund processes included in their tours.</p> <p>From the website: https://www.passports.com/students/travel-protection</p> <h3>Refund Options</h3> <p>Cancel by 90 days prior to your departure date Prior to 90 days, the cancellation fee is the non-refundable amount of \$620. Service fees, like credit card fees, are non-refundable.</p> <p>Cancel between 90 days and 30 days prior to your departure date, and receive a 75% refund. You do not need to purchase insurance to have this offer extended to you. It is universal to all Passports travelers. Under this policy, you can cancel for any reason and receive a 75% refund. Airline tickets, if purchased, would be refunded as a voucher issued by the airline, if available, and deducted from your refund from Passports. Service fees (see above) and Peace of Mind fees are non-refundable.</p> <p>Cancel 29 days or less No refund</p> <h3>Peace of Mind Plans</h3> <p>Passports offers two optional plans for individual cancellations that provide enhanced refunds.</p> <p>Peace of Mind Plan - 75% Refund This offers a 75% refund for cancellation for any reason between 2 - 29 days prior to departure minus the cost of the plan (\$199)* and service fees, if any.*</p> <p>Ultimate Peace of Mind Plan - 100% Refund You can cancel at any time, for any reason, and receive a 100% refund minus the cost of the plan (\$449)* and service fees, if any.*</p> <p>For example, if a participant were to cancel the day prior to travel, <i>for any reason</i>, with the Ultimate Peace of Mind plan, they would receive an air voucher from the airline in the amount of the value of the air ticket.</p>

Passports would then refund the remainder of their total payments. The participant would be out of pocket only the cost of the plan, which is \$449.

You r Pay ment	Cancel Reason	Days Until Departure When You Cancel	Default Refund	With Peace of Mind	With Ultimate Peace of Mind
\$4000	ANY	>89	\$3380	\$3380	\$4000
\$4000	ANY	89-30	\$3000*	\$3000*	\$4000*
\$4000	ANY	<30	\$0	\$3000*	\$4000*

*Airline tickets, if purchased, would be refunded as a voucher issued by the airline, if available. If a voucher is not available, the cost of the airline ticket is non-refundable. Service Fees and Peace of Mind fees are also non-refundable.

Overseas Medical Coverage

Passports provides and pays for a post-departure travel protection plan that helps protect you while on your trip with coverage for trip interruption, travel delay, emergency medical expenses, evacuation and more. Post-Departure Travel Protection is included in your program cost.

Plan Benefits:

- Trip Interruption
- Travel Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses
- Emergency Dental Expenses
- Emergency Medical Evacuation & Repatriation
- AD&D
- Political & Security Evacuation

This is intended as a general description of certain types of insurance and services available to qualified customers through the companies of Zurich in North America, provided solely for informational purposes. Nothing herein should be construed as a solicitation, offer, advice, recommendation, or any other service with regard to any type of insurance product underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company, 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, IL 60196. Your policy is the contract that specifically and fully describes your coverage, terms and conditions. Travelex Insurance Services Inc. CA Agency license #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC # 16535).

Any Additional Information

For more information about your trip, you can visit:
<https://my.passports.com/login?g=JENGELHARDT2027-2>

Objective POSITIVES related to this item or approach:

Providing our students with the ability to become global citizens is essential in today's world. By giving them the opportunity to not only visit the country of France, but to live the French daily life is an experience and opportunity that is unique. Not only is this experience unique, but it often forms lifelong connections and friendships that serve our students beyond the four walls of the classroom. Students have the opportunity to see the things and places we have learned about in class as well as immerse themselves in authentic language and cultural learning opportunities. For many students, this is the ultimate example of the "why" we are studying the French language and culture and provides them with an authentic, immersive experience.

Objective NEGATIVES related to this item or approach:

Students will miss 2-3 days of class (depending on our new block schedule) and also students who are not traveling with the French group will have an alternate teacher for the four days prior to Spring Break.

Financial Implications, if any:

The only financial implications of this trip for the school is the daily rate for any substitute teacher who may be required during teacher absences. Additionally, families who participate in the group travel will have the cost of the trip, plus souvenirs and daily spending money.

Opinion/Recommendation:

This trip is recommended for approval.