

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Livonia Public Schools

Memorandum

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Randy A. Liepa

DATE: November 23, 2010

SUBJECT: School of Choice – Franklin IB Program

As we analyzed the current number of students in our Franklin IB cohort classes and anticipate upcoming classes, we believe it makes sense to consider a limited number of *School of Choice* seats to retain the viability of the program. We would only recommend this under specific guidelines, which include the following:

- All LPS students have the first opportunity for seats in the program. We currently have up to 25 seats per cohort.
- We only have a limited number of potential open seats. We recommend only up to five for each cohort.
- Based on the number of Livonia students enrolled in the program, in any year we could recommend less than five seats be available for open enrollment.
- Any student outside the district who applies for the program would be need to meet certain academic requirements. The first requirements would be the student submitting an application and completing an essay. In addition, the student would be required to submit their grades for review. The student would also have to show, through standardized testing, a reading level of at or above grade level.
- If a student is accepted into the program and then decides to withdraw, the student will be sent back to their home high school. We verified our ability to do this at the high school level with the Wayne RESA pupil accounting department.
- We would recruit students as we do our current high school students. That is, we would provide the opportunity to begin at Franklin in the ninth grade taking preparatory classes until formal classes begin in the eleventh grade.
- We would also recommend only accepting a number of students that would allow additional LPS students to join the cohort if they wish.

We believe this opportunity will allow us to maintain a viable IB program within our district. It will generate enough resources, if necessary, to cover any costs and generate additional revenue for our school district. In a school of almost 2,000 students, the maximum *Choice* students in this program would be 20. This is far less than what we have in our ACAT program, which is working well. This recommendation has the support of the director of secondary programs and the principal of Franklin High School.

I look forward to discussing this with you at our next Committee meeting.

jw