FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025

January 6, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 12.3

TOPIC: FIRST READING OF BIZNOLOGY

BACKGROUND: In the fall of 2010, curriculum discussions led to a .5 credit increase in the science requirement at 7th grade. This increase will take effect in fall of 2011. With the increase in 7th grade science, discussions around elective offerings at the Jr. High level led to the decision to offer 2 credits of elective choice for all 7th and 8th grade students, beginning in the fall of 2011. Elective departments have worked throughout the fall of 2010 to update current offerings or create new course offerings in elective areas. Some offerings will be tailored to mixed groups of 7th and 8th grade students, while some offerings will be offered to grade level students at either grades 7, 8 **or** 9.

PROCESS: Through the discussions surrounding possible new offerings at the Jr. High Level, the Business department has opted to create a new 7th grade course, similar to a previously offered 9th grade course, Computer Applications. The new course will focus on real-world, project-based activities that will benefit students in the following ways:
1. Students will learn essential computer skills necessary to success in any academic area at the jr. high or high school level.
2. Providing such a course earlier in a student's career provides greater opportunity for application of the necessary skills.
3. As a semester course, students will have more time to engage in real-world problems encountered in the world of work.
4. Students will be prepared for other courses in the Business department at an early age.
5. Students will attain life skills necessary for working with the Microsoft Office Suite.

RECOMMENDATION: First reading of a proposal to offer a new 7th grade elective, Biznology, for 2011-12 school year.

Course Title:	**Biznology**
Course Number:	
Grade Level:	7
Credit Hours:	0.5

Course Description:

Got biznology? In today's fast-paced world, you need it! In this class, you will connect the dots between business and technology. Explore important computer skills, which will help you become successful in your future career and schooling, including junior high, high school and college. This class is project-based; pick a band and create a flyer for an upcoming concert, choose a celebrity and write them a letter to find out how they use computers in their everyday lives. Take part in a simulation where you will open a sporting goods or hobby store of your choice. Create your company's grand opening commercial and billboard using presentation software. Plan what you will sell in your store with spreadsheet software. make use of word processing software to design your store's billboard and logo. Express your creativity in this class while learning essential business and technology skills. Get biznology!

Prerequisite:

None

Articulated Agreements / College Credit(if applicable):

N/A

Alignment with Minnesota Academic Standards or national/state contest standards:

Standards taken from the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS), International Society for Technology in Education, 2005.

1. Basic operations & concepts- Students demonstrate a sound understanding of the nature and operation of technology systems.
2. Technology productivity tools- Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.
3. Social, ethical, and human issues- Students develop positive attitudes toward technology uses that support lifelong learning, collaboration, personal pursuits, and productivity.
4. Technology problem solving and decision-making tools- Students employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world.

Standards taken from the MEMO Information and Technology Literacy Standards, Minnesota Educational Media Organization, 2009.
1. Understand and use technology equipment
2. Perform basic operations of computer and network use.
3. Select and use applications effectively and productively
4. Strategically solve information and technology issues.
5. Effectively use available tools and applications for collaboration, organization, and communication.

Specific Course Learner Outcomes:

Course Outline with Pacing:

Additional Information: