



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

October 6, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 10.3

**TOPIC: Approval of new world language course – Chinese I
(1 credit)**

BACKGROUND: In June 2011, three representatives from Forest Lake Area Schools, two from Lakes International Language Academy along with other educators from across the United States visited China for nine days. The goals of the visit were to:

- Understand the resources available to promote and implement Chinese programs in American schools;
- Understand the challenges of securing teachers for elementary and secondary immersion programs and secondary language programs;
- Consider the next steps for Minnesota and Forest Lake.

PROCESS:

As we consider our next steps, we have identified three:

- Consider offering Chinese in grades 8–12 in 2012–13.
- Start initial planning for providing the secondary immersion program for LILA students entering junior high.
- Explore the possibility of offering a partial Chinese immersion program starting in grade 1 (no start date determined).

RECOMMENDATION: First reading of course “Chinese I” for grades 8–12 to begin in 2012-13.