



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

November 4, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 10.3

TOPIC: FIRST READING OF ALGEBRA 9 FOR 2011 - 12

BACKGROUND: Based on a study of the new Minnesota Academic Standards for Mathematics and the creation of a new 8th grade Algebra course, implemented for the 2010 – 11 school year, the Mathematics Curriculum Review Team is bringing forward a recommendation for approval of a new 9th grade Algebra course that will take students on to the next set of required mathematical topics necessary for a successful course of mathematics study.

PROCESS: When the new MN Academic Standards for Mathematics were approved through the rule-making process, conversations began about how to align course work at 8th and 9th grade with the standards. The new standards require 8th grade students to work through Algebra concepts that progress up through linear Algebra. These concepts cover more than 50% of a typical Algebra I course. Algebra I has historically been a 9th Grade course. The newly proposed 9th grade course will pick up and review linear Algebra concepts and then move on to Function (absolute value), statistics, systems of equations/inequalities, exponents & radicals, FOIL/factoring and polynomials, and quadratics. By completing the sequence of 8th and 9th grade courses, students will have been provided the required MN standards for Algebra and will be ready to complete the two remaining high school credits of Geometry and Algebra II. The full course outline for Algebra 9 will be completed within the next month during the work of the Math Curriculum Review team.

RECOMMENDATION: First reading of a proposal to offer a new Algebra 9 mathematics course, beginning in the fall of 2011.