FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025

June 2, 2016

AGENDA ITEM: 10.2

TOPIC: New Course Proposal – Instructional Technology Support Team (ITST) I

BACKGROUND: During the early winter of 2015, staff at Forest Lake Area High School were made aware of a program called *MOUSE*. *MOUSE* provides students with learning modules to explore all aspects of running a technology help desk, and allows students to earn badges and certifications to document their achievements. *MOUSE* is paid for by a statewide grant funded by MDE. As discussion occurred around being able to engage students in such a program, and with research into similar program offerings in other districts, the idea to offer an elective course that would provide students the opportunity to build skills in area of technology support, as well as authentically support the growing need for technology support of students and staff at FLAHS entered the planning stage.

PROCESS: High school staff including the media specialist and the administration, along with staff from the Teaching and Learning department met to consider the options for the MOUSE program. After exploring programs in Alexandria and North Branch, and looking at other online programs used in Minnesota and beyond, it was decided to propose an elective course that would award students credit in the area of Media. A course outline, with learning objectives, has been designed that would best fit with the needs of the Forest Lake Area High School's students and staff. See the attached Course Description and learner outcomes for more detail.

The proposed course, if approved, would be offered to students for the 2016-17 school year. Students would be working both individually and in small groups to hone technology skills and gain hands-on help desk experiences. Ideally, 2 students per class period would be engaged in this program for half of their school year, earning 1 elective credit. Students would complete an application process to be part of this programming. At this time, the course is being advertised for next year, pending School Board Approval, no student schedules for next year have been revised yet. The application process will not be finalized unless School Board approval is received. There is information concerning the proposal and application process available on the FLAS website under "For Students."

RECOMMENDATION: First Reading of New Course Proposal – Technology Support Internship (TSI) Program I.