

School Board Meeting:

May 13, 2013

Subject:Social Studies Curriculum
Adoption Proposal (CAP) Report**Presenter:**Pam Miller &
Social Studies Teachers
Jen Mutterer, Elementary
Natalie Polaschek, BCMS
Nate Klatt, BCMS
Nicole Gmach, BHS**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Report only. Approval will be requested at the next board meeting.

DESCRIPTION:

The Elementary Social Studies Team and the Secondary Social Studies Department members have engaged in the district Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) review tasks over the past two years in the RESEARCH and PILOT phases. They have been active in activities that have included:

- development of a program goal to guide the selection of resources and to formulate the vision for instructional delivery
- review of revised state standards and the related impact for our district's K-12 course programming
- presentations by K-12 curriculum resource vendors
- piloting of curriculum resources
- investigation of technology tools to increase tech integration through their content
- team discussions of preferred resources and development of resource scenarios
- consensus-building by each team to reach recommendation decisions

These CIP tasks have now culminated into the BHM Social Studies Curriculum Adoption Proposal (CAP) Report being presented to you for review at this time. As one of the four core curriculum areas, the Social Studies Program is a large program with many different components. As a core curriculum area that has been left untested within the external accountability of No Child Left Behind, it is also a program that has not received the care and attention deserved, as have several other curriculum areas. The program has been passed over during previous curriculum review cycles as a victim of the district's budget reductions felt in more recent years. The social studies resources within our district have become outdated and scarce, and the training provided for teachers to deliver high quality instruction in social studies has been lacking, in particular for elementary teachers.

This review process has allowed an opportunity for our social studies teachers to

reflect upon the learning experiences desired for BHM students. As stated above, a part of the CIP process includes the development of a program goal by teachers. The purpose of this goal is to guide decisions and action plans within the improvement process. Each step of the process, the goal is used to determine if the next step is aligned with the intent of the desired goal. The following two goals were developed by our elementary and secondary social studies teams.

Elementary Social Studies Improvement Process Goal

As a district striving to meet the intent of the state standards, the goals that the BHM elementary social studies task force agreed upon are:

- to provide a variety of quality materials, resources, and technologies that connect to multiple disciplines and allow students to learn through a global lens;
- to create authentic learning opportunities through research, collaboration, and response activities;
- to develop assessments that allow for student ownership and show personal learning.

Secondary Social Studies Improvement Process Goal

Provide students with access to authentic learning experiences beyond the four walls, both virtually and physically.

Upon completing the review process, each team is bringing forth a recommendation for consideration within their CAP report. With these needs and desired goals, of course, comes a significant purchase of resources in order to meet these needs and goals. It is typical for a school district our size to have a district curriculum budget of \$500,000 for a core curriculum adoption. The proposals at each level (elementary, middle school, high school) are all still within the draft stage at this point. We are still in the process of determining exact numbers of resources needed, and I am also still in the negotiations process with each of the vendors involved. Preliminary budget figures for each level are as follows:

Elementary	\$172,082
BCMS	\$105,660
BHS	\$123,110
PLC	\$ 3,300
Total	\$404,152

The Social Studies CAP Report has been presented to the Secondary, Elementary, and the District/Community Teaching & Learning Councils in May 2013. Teachers representing each level will be presenting this information at Monday's board workshop and we will be available to respond to any questions you may have about the process or the resources within the recommendation.