



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

February 3, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 10.2

TOPIC: FIRST READING OF NEW COURSE "GET THE FACS!"

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 discussions on elective course offerings at the junior high level, the FACS department has updated current course offerings. Through that updating, the department has expanded and enriched a current course offering, "Life Skills", into two semester courses. In this second course, "Get the FACS!", students will experience work with color and design principles, home decorating including cost analysis and floor plans, human growth and development topics, and developmentally appropriate guidelines for the behavior of young children. The department has recognized the need for more in depth experiences for students at the junior high level. The topics here have been expanded from a 9 week study to better prepare students for future offerings. A preliminary course outline is attached to this proposal.

RECOMMENDATION: First reading of a proposal to offer a new 7th and 8th grade elective course offering, "Get the FACS!" for the 2011-12 school year.

Secondary Course Outline

Course name: Get the FACS!

Grade: 7th & 8th grade

Course description:

Should I paint my room red? How can I best get along with others? Why are people different from me? How can I be a responsible babysitter? Get the FACS will give you the tools you need to answer these questions and more! Students will explore the areas in Family and Consumer Sciences of Interior Design, Interpersonal Relationships, Cultures, and Child Development.

FACS National Standards:

Consumer & Family Resources: 2.1

Housing & Interior Design: 11.2, 11.3

Interpersonal Relationships: 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6

Parenting: 15.2

Education & Early Childhood: 4.4, 4.5

Family: 6.2

Minnesota Academic Standards:

Math: Number Sense

Language Arts: Reading and Literature
Writing
Speaking, Listening and Viewing

Social Studies: Economics

Learner outcomes:

Students will:

1. Demonstrate understanding of color and design principles.
2. Be able to calculate cost of furnishing the living space using dimensions taken from floor plans and elevations.
3. Defend their designs using logical reasoning and applies principles.
4. Analyze factors that contribute to healthy and unhealthy relationships
5. Demonstrate communication skills that contribute to positive relationships.
6. Apply the roles of decision making and problem solving in reducing, and managing, and preventing conflict.
7. Examine cultural similarities and differences.
8. Identify nurturing practices that support human growth and development.
9. Demonstrate a safe and healthy learning environment for children.
10. Apply developmentally appropriate guidelines for behavior of young children.

Course content: (Write this in outline format.)