FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025

November 3, 2016

AGENDA ITEM: 10.5

TOPIC: New Course Proposal – Media & Technology Support (MATS) II

BACKGROUND: In September of this year we offered Media & Technology Support I (MATS I) I for the first time. This course, based on a program called MOUSE provided through a statewide grant funded by MDE, provides students the opportunity to learn both the soft skills and the technical skills involved in running a technology support help desk. In order to continue the sequence and to expand this unique opportunity for students, we are proposing the addition of Media & Technology Support II (MATS II).

PROCESS: As interest among students grew last spring and this fall for MATS I, the high school principal and media specialist discussed a plan for extending this experience through the development of a second course to build on the skills learned in the first course. MATS II will allow students who have completed MATS I to take their learning to the next level. Students will continue to develop knowledge and understanding of a wide range of instructional technologies, but, leveraging their prior experience from MATS I, students will also develop leadership and collaboration skills. MATS II students will serve as leaders, teachers, and mentors to MATS I students as opportunities allow.

As with MATS I, MATS II will be delivered in tandem with curricular materials provided through the MOUSE program, which is aligned with ISTE's nationally recognized standards for technology in education. MATS II students will select an independent MOUSE topic that stretches them beyond their previous experiences. MOUSE topics include: circuitry & electronics (robotics); app development; web design, development, and support; game design; computer coding; and web literacy.

MATS II students will divide their time between the role of media & tech support help desk and working on an independent project. Independent projects will tie back to their MOUSE training from MATS I and will be approved by the instructor, including learning targets, project parameters, and timelines.

RECOMMENDATION: First Reading of New Course Proposal – Media & Technology Support II (MATS II)