



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

October 7, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 10.4

TOPIC: DELETE SECONDARY MATH COURSE – INTEGRATED I

BACKGROUND: The Math Curriculum Review Team has worked to align K-12 mathematics instruction in Forest Lake Area Schools for the past ten years. That work has involved the study of the MN Academic Standards for Mathematics, redesign of K-12 mathematics course offerings, implementation of differentiated instructional practices K-12, and professional development for all teachers of mathematics.

PROCESS: During the 2007-2008 school year, the Mathematics Curriculum Review Committee worked to dissect and understand the new Minnesota Academic Standards for Mathematics. With the back mapping work completed by the Committee in preparation for implementing the new standards in 8th grade, a new curriculum was chosen for grades 6 through 8. The students in 6th grade are working in the McDougal Littell Middle Level Course 1. Students in 7th grade students are working in McDougal Littell Middle Level Course 2, and 8th grade students have just begun their work in the new Algebra 8 course that uses materials from the Holt Algebra series. Previously families at those levels chose between an integrated and a traditional curriculum: MathScape or Middle Level Math.

The Math Review Committee proposed and received approval for all 7th grade students to enroll in Math 7, beginning in the fall of 2009. The School Board also accepted the committee's recommendation to have all 8th grade students enroll in Algebra 8, beginning in the fall of 2010. Both of these actions led to the discontinued use of MathScape curriculum materials. Those materials were an integrated middle level approach to mathematical content. Students presently experience the same mathematical content as prescribed by the Academic Standards and classroom teachers differentiate for student readiness and learning style within that mathematical content.

At present, 9th grade students have a choice between Integrated I, an integrated course that uses the Core Plus Curriculum, and Algebra I, a traditional mathematics course. The two courses have been offered to accommodate differences in learning style, not mathematical content. The Math Committee is proposing that all 9th grade students enroll in Algebra 9 for the 2010-11 school

year. This course will be an extension of the newly implemented Algebra 8 course. Teachers will provide the differentiation for readiness and learning style as currently occurs in grades 7 and 8. Students and parents will not be asked to choose a path of learning. The choice of good instructional strategies for all students will be placed in the hands of educators and allow for flexibility in planning and delivery of the aligned mathematical content.

Other data that impacted this recommendation is the decline in enrollment for Integrated I over the past few years. The number of students enrolled in Integrated I at Century Junior High started at 116 students in 2007 and has dropped to 52 students in the current 2010-2011 school year. The number of students enrolled at Southwest Junior High School started at 33 students in 2007. Numbers of students registered for Integrated 1 in the past two school years have not been sufficient to offer that course at Southwest. At the High School, new sections of Integrated I have not been offered since the 2006-07 school year. Math Lab offerings and Cognitive Tutor have been the options for students who arrive at the High School and have not successfully completed Integrated I.

For the reasons described in the preceding paragraphs, the Mathematics Curriculum Review Committee is recommending the deletion of Integrated I for the 2011-2012 school year. This change would be implemented at Southwest Jr. High, Century Jr. High, Forest Lake Area High School, and the Area Learning Center.

RECOMMENDATION: First reading of the proposal to delete Integrated I from the mathematics offerings in Forest Lake Area Schools.