

**School Board Meeting:**

January 25, 2010

**Subject:**

Gifted Ed Alternative Program

**Presenter:**

Pam Miller

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Recommend board approval of implementation of an alternative gifted ed program beginning in 2010-11.

**DESCRIPTION:**

At the January 11 board workshop, Laura Halldin reviewed a proposal to implement an alternative gifted ed program beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. We are seeking board approval of the program as proposed below.

The proposal for 2010-11 implementation includes the establishment of one multi-age elementary classroom for grade 4-5 students, and a 6<sup>th</sup> grade middle school program covering the core areas of English, mathematics, science and social studies. The placement of the elementary program will be determined by the elementary staffing team. In the 2011-2012 school year, the program would expand to include 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We would consider offering a multiage grades 2-3 classroom as well.

Students applying for entrance into the program will be considered through a variety of qualifying criteria. Final decisions of qualifying students will be made by a committee of BHM staff, including teachers and administrators.

This alternative gifted ed program at both the elementary and the middle school levels would be open to students from other districts through non-resident agreement options. However, the district resident students would be placed in the program as a first priority.

Our intention is for the program to grow based on need and demonstrated success; and for the program to become financially self-sustaining.

The financial commitment from the district in this proposal includes a 1.0 FTE to staff the elementary classroom, and a budget of \$4,000 for start-up curriculum materials.

The program will be considered a pilot program for two years during the 2010-11 and the 2011-12 school years, after which the program will be evaluated. For the program to continue after the pilot period, it must become self-sustaining within the allotted staffing FTEs for the elementary and middle school sites.