



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

November 5, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: 9.1

TOPIC: WRITING WORKSHOP (GRADES 11 – 12)

BACKGROUND:

As outlined in School Board policy 613, *Graduation Requirements*, students in grades 9-12 must earn 4 required credits in the area of Language Arts. One of the courses that fulfills the credit requirement needs to be a writing-intensive course. In the past, this credit could be fulfilled by taking AP English Language & Composition, CIS University Writing & Critical Reading, College Prep Composition, Creative Writing and Technical Writing

PROCESS:

On January 27th, 2015, members of the FLAS Secondary English Department, along with building administration and representation from the curriculum department, reviewed the courses that currently meet the standards for the high school writing requirement necessary for graduation. At that meeting, it was decided that a new course was needed to meet the ELA State Writing Standards in a more thorough and effective manner. Two of the courses that currently were identified to meet the standards, Creative Writing and Technical Writing, were found to be too specific in focus and content to meet all the writing standards thoroughly. If students were enrolled in one of those courses, department members felt the students were not receiving full standards coverage without enhancement of those current courses.

The FLAHS Language Arts department discussed a potential new course that would cover all the required standards appropriately throughout the remainder of the 2014-15 school year. At the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, a subcommittee of the high school department put together the basic outline of the new course, which is attached.

With School Board approval, the department plans to offer the new course as the required writing course which fulfills the graduation requirement beginning in the fall of 2016. Creative Writing and Technical Writing would be offered as elective options in the ELA department.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve new course, Writing Workshop.