



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

**TO: Members, Board of Education
Dr. Albert Roberts, Superintendent of Schools**

**FROM: Kevin M. Anderson, Ed.D., Asst. Supt.
Lisa Schwartz, Curriculum Coordinator**

RE: Curriculum Adoption: Middle School World Language

DATE: April 26, 2011

This report outlines proposed purchases of Spanish and French materials for the middle school World Language program.

OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 97
Oak Park, Illinois

April 26, 2011

Curriculum Adoption – Middle School World Language

This report highlights the process involved in selecting new middle school world language materials that are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. Included are the members of the selection committee, the process followed for the selection of materials, specific recommendations for materials, and the purchase costs.

Strategic Plan Connections:

Strategy I: We will ensure the highest academic achievement for each student.

Strategy II: We will make each student the active agent of his/her educational experience.

Strategy III: We will establish a culture of inclusion that respects and promotes diversity which includes establishing an environment that celebrates differences.

Strategy IV: We will ensure learning experiences that develop the whole child to accomplish our mission and objective which includes expanding opportunities to students to participate in world languages.

Timeline of the Curriculum Study

The middle school world language staff began the process of selecting new teaching materials during the 2010-11 school year to replace the existing materials. This was one year later than outlined on the approved curriculum study and adoption cycle of District 97 because of budget reasons. Discovering French Bleu and ¡En español! have been used since 2001. Both texts reference out of date material and offer limited/dated technology options. Of special interest in selecting a new series was the need for a series that would further incorporate technology, include a strong vocabulary focus, and be representative of the Spanish and French languages in a world context.

Curriculum Review Team Members

Kevin Anderson (Assistant Superintendant)

Lisa Lohman (World Languages Dept. Chair / French Teacher, Brooks),

Susan Walsh (Spanish Teacher, Brooks)

Monique Hoskins (Spanish Teacher, Julian)

Jennifer Young (French Teacher, Julian)
Blanca Martinez (Spanish Teacher, Brooks)
Logan Russo (Spanish Teacher, Julian & Longfellow)
Lisa Schwartz (Curriculum Coordinator)

Process

The middle school world language teachers began by ordering sample materials during fall 2010. Teachers met formally and informally throughout the year to discuss each set of materials to determine what would be the best fit for District 97.

The Curriculum Review Team participated in the following presentations:

11/11/10: "C'est à toi" (EMC: Cynthia Knudson, representative)

11/18/10: "Avancemos" & "Bien dit!" (Holt McDougal: Patrick Gentles, representative)

12/01/10: "Realidades" (Pearson: Kristin Sweet-White, representative)

The world language teachers discussed the new materials during each of the three district department meetings (Sept. 2010, Jan. 2011, and April 2011).

During the April 6 meeting, the Curriculum Review Team voted unanimously for the following materials based on comments below.

French Materials – Bien dit! (Holt McDougal)

Bien dit! outlines the National Standards in each chapter, includes an entire section of cultural references, and divides the book into sections on France, Canada and Senegal. It is culturally richer than Discovering French and will give students the opportunity to learn about other francophone countries. The technology is current and includes an online resource for students, grammar tutor, sound booth voice recording, DVD program, differentiated practice and assessment support, interactive tutor/DVD tutor, online student self-tests, media guide, etc.

Spanish Materials – Realidades (Prentice Hall)

Realidades provides culturally rich information with a carefully sequenced approach to language instruction. Realidades has a more advanced technology component than the other than the other textbook reviewed. It is also very user-friendly (for both teachers and students). There are multiple options for students to have access to resources at home.

Next Steps

Once the curriculum adoption has been approved, the materials will be ordered in two phases (prior to June 2011 and after July 1). This will allow the utilization

of money from two budget years. Training for teachers would take place between June-August 2011.

Estimated Purchase Costs

We are still negotiating prices with the publishers to determine the most cost effective combination for sets of classroom books and e-books for home use. One item we are working on is trying to minimize the cost of the e-Books and extend the license agreement, since currently both publishers offer a 6-year license and our cycle is typically for 8 years. The final costs should be ready by the April 26, 2011 Board Meeting.

Spanish Materials – Realidades ©2011 (Prentice Hall)

Spanish 1 – 100 Texts/e-book licenses + 5 Teacher Editions (2 TE for FLES)

Spanish 2 – 70 Texts/e-book licenses + 2 Teacher Editions+ 330 additional e-book licenses

Spanish 3 – 35 Texts/e-book licenses + 1 Teacher Editions

Cost for materials estimated to be approximately \$40,000

French Materials – Bien Dit! ©2008 (Holt McDougal)

French 1 – 100 Texts/e-book licenses + 30 additional e-book licenses + 2 Teacher Editions

French 2 - 70 Texts/e-book licenses + 150 additional e-book licenses + 2 Teacher Editions

Cost for materials estimated to be approximately \$25,000

Representatives from both publishers have agreed to provide complimentary teachers materials and technology resources.

Materials will be ordered with funds remaining in the 2010-11 budget (about \$12,000) and the 2011-12 curriculum materials budget. Teachers' materials will be ordered first, with student book orders coming later in the summer.

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Curriculum Coordinator

Lisa Lohman
World Language Chair

Kevin M. Anderson, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

