



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

December 6, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: 9.6 Kindergarten Proposal for 2013-14

BACKGROUND: As part of the strategic plan, exploration of all day every day kindergarten at no cost to parents is an action item. The idea of having all children in a kindergarten program full time is one that many districts consider and implement. Providing kindergarten full time to all students is considered a way to academically support all students and deliver consistent and equitable instruction.

As part of the ever evolving marketing plan for the school district, all day every day kindergarten at no cost is a logical next step. In our efforts to retain students living in the district and attract students living outside of the district, this kindergarten proposal aligns with meeting the needs of families and providing academically sound programming.

PROCESS: The information listed above has been discussed at the superintendent's monthly staff meetings. It has also been discussed at a meeting with all kindergarten teachers in the district. The response has been supportive and favorable.

At the November school board meeting, there was a request by some school board members to explore an alternative for parents that would prefer an option that was not all day every day. For 2013-14, parents would be given the option of having their children attend kindergarten Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at a location in Forest Lake (Central Montessori, Forest View or Forest Lake). Students would be transported on secondary buses at no charge and would follow the secondary schedule. Parents that select this option would be informed in March whether or not this would be feasible (due to enrollment) and would offered in 2013-14. If this does occur, students would return to their home school for first grade or select Central Montessori as their school choice.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the kindergarten proposal to offer all day every day kindergarten at no cost to families starting in 2013-14.