



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

December 2, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 9.3

**TOPIC: SECOND READING OF GRADE 8 “AGRISCIENCE”
COURSE FOR 2011-12**

BACKGROUND: The Agricultural Education Advisory Board has, since the last curriculum review, recommended the development of an 8th grade Ag offering.

PROCESS: Currently, students do not have access to Agriculture Department course offerings prior to Grade 9. Agriculture continues to be a growing and progressive career area with opportunities in science, business, entrepreneurship, engineering, and other core STEM goals. The proposed “AgriScience” course would allow the Agriculture department to play a role in improving science learner outcomes while providing increased access and choice to students wishing to engage in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources career pathway. Furthermore, students enrolled in the 8th Grade would then be eligible for career development, personal growth, and leadership opportunities available through FFA membership.

Through the Curriculum Review Cycle, the Agriculture department has worked to align course offerings with requirements dictated by the MN Academic Standards in different curricular areas. The department works to provide elective choice that enhances student learning in a broad range of areas and also provides students connections with real life experiences and application. They would employ the same practice in creating the “AgriScience” course for 8th grade students.

Acknowledgement of this proposal has been obtained from secondary administration and department chairs.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of a new 8th grade elective “AgriScience” course, beginning in the fall of 2011.