



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

February 2, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: 9.4

**TOPIC: PROPOSED 8TH GRADE ACCELERATED SCIENCE –
FULL YEAR**

BACKGROUND: Jr. High accelerated classes have been offered in three of the four core subject areas for many years. Beginning in 7th grade, students may be placed in accelerated Mathematics, English, or Social Studies classes. This holds true for 8th grade as well. An accelerated Science course is available at 9th grade. During the 2010-11 school year, the School Board approved adding .5 credit of science at 7th grade. This also brought about changes in elective course offerings in grades 7 and 8. Throughout the discussion that ensued, suggestions concerning the addition of an accelerated Science offering prior to grade 9 were brought forward by parents and staff.

PROCESS: The Science Review Committee recommended and received Board approval for an accelerated science course at 8th grade, which would be available to 8th grade students during the second semester of their 8th grade year, beginning in 2012-13. After further discussion with building administration at both sites, the committee would like to amend their proposal to have the 8th grade accelerated science course run the full year. Factors that have impacted this request include:

- Difficulty of changing schedules mid year.
- Information from current 7th grade teachers that allows the department to now feel they can accurately identify students for a successful experience in 8th grade.
- Department readiness to take on the implementation of such a course at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of a proposed 8th grade accelerated science course to be implemented full year for 2012-13.