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**[External Email] WBOE/Admin Math Update for BOE meeting 2/26/24- questions from the community**

1 message

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Dear Members of the Woodbridge BOE & Beecher Administration:

Thank you so much for your consideration and support in improving Beecher's Math curriculum to date, especially in the upper grades.

We as a parent community would like to ask the following list of questions in response to the last Math Update during the Dec BOE meeting and in looking forward to February's update.

We would respectfully request to have a conversation/forum to address these questions so that the curriculum process is transparent and accountable, especially as we have a STEAM teacher as a future potential.

Respectfully and with gratitude,

Hillary Drumm

## **Math Questions and Concerns for WBOE & Admin**

### **CONTENT**

- How is this new plan going to prepare the current 5th graders to take the pre-algebra test at the end of 5th grade? How you are going to teach a combined 5th/6th grade curriculum to prepare them for the pre-algebra test since it was discussed previously that skipping 6th grade curriculum would be unwise.
- What is the argument for enrichment only and not advancement for those who demonstrate ability and aptitude?
- Enrichment means challenging, it doesn't mean additional work. Students in 5th grade are receiving additional work, on top of the regular work when they receive enrichment- and lately no enrichment has been offered.

### **EQUITY**

- It is an equity issue to provide math enrichment to only those children who pass a pre-test, as opposed to children who demonstrate aptitude for accelerated instruction.
- How is the track to Pre-Algebra in 6th grade going to be made more equitable? It is currently only addressing children who have been taught advanced concepts in prior grades (by the few teachers who differentiate and have allowed advancement) or those taught outside of school through extracurricular activities that not all children can access.
- How can the school support teachers to provide appropriate enrichment through guidance and support throughout the school experience for ALL students?

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- How are you going to identify the kids who can proceed on an accelerated path?

### **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

- The TAG program's philosophy states that it provides emotional support for those who qualify. Why does this philosophy not extend to Advanced Math Ability Students? Why are the advanced math kids not being challenged and valued?

### **COMMUNICATION**

- Could there be a clearer communication about math curriculum from administration as well as this new program. Can the school provide updated communication to all parents or at least to explain the plan to all the parents who signed the advanced math petition?
- Would it be possible to have a Math Forum that is open to the public where admins/math specialists from Woodbridge/Orange/Bethany Elementary schools, AMSB/AMSO & AHS explain curriculum pathways and let parents ask questions where everyone can benefit from the answers since choices for middle school and highschool classes depend on what happens in elementary schools.
- There is no math curriculum available to the public via the BRS website. Only a philosophy statement. We request a transparent view curriculum to understand all math pathways and options.

### **STAFFING**

- How can you support teachers to provide adequate support in class and differentiation? Differentiation is currently NOT happening in every classroom. ALL teachers should be differentiating to make math education equitable for all students, how can they be more accountable?
- Is part of the pushback due to AMSB's inability to hire a full-time Geometry teacher?
- What staffing needs do you have for math advancement or enrichment? Hiring instructional para support for math? Changing classes for math in 5th grade, other ideas? Students already leave the classroom for TAG or Band, being pulled for Advanced Math Class would not be an unusual idea.
- Do 5th and 6th grade math teachers receive Professional Development for teaching grade 4-7 math?