

**FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

Board Curriculum Committee
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
3:00 PM
Forest Hills Administration Building

Agenda

- I. Public Comments
- II. Updates
 - II.A. Finance and Operations
 - II.B. Instruction
 - II.B.1. Presentation: High School English Language Arts
Presenter: Kim Van Antwerp and HS ELA Teachers
 - II.B.2. Title III Immigrant Funds
Presenter: Scott Haid
- III. Action
 - III.A. Minutes for January 15, 2025
 - III.B. Recommendations
 - III.B.1. Approval of Title III fund relinquishment
- IV. Superintendent's Update

**Forest Hills Public Schools
Board Finance Committee**

February 4, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Education relinquish federal Title III Immigrant funds.

BACKGROUND:

The Instruction Office requests to relinquish federal Title III Immigrant funds allocated to our district. While we value the intent of this grant to support immigrant students, the scope and practical challenges associated with utilizing these funds have significantly limited the impact and effectiveness within our district context.

Our district has identified approximately 90 immigrant students across grades K-12, including high school exchange students. Most of these students are English learners who already benefit from services provided through our general-funded Language Assistance Program (LAP) and supplemental support funded through Title III English Language Development (ELD), Title I, Section 41, and Section 31a grants. These resources collectively ensure that the academic and language development needs of our immigrant students are adequately met.

The Title III Immigrant grant provides approximately \$9,000 annually, with a current balance of \$19,500 due to carryover from the previous year. Despite efforts to identify effective ways to utilize these funds, several barriers have emerged:

1. **Narrow Scope for Use:** The guidelines for allowable activities are stringent, focusing solely on supplemental services for immigrant students.
2. **Timing Constraints:** Offering meaningful supplemental programming, such as summer services, has proven challenging due to staffing limitations and family travel schedules during this time.
3. **Limited Impact of Small Grant Size:** The small size of the grant restricts the ability to develop impactful initiatives or programming.

Submitted by: Scott Haid

**FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education
Held on January 15, 2025

Present: Maggie Terryn, Malorie Ninemeier, Shawn Colley
Staff: Ben Kirby, Scott Haid, Christine Annese, Julie Davis, Kim Van Antwerp,
J. Gregory, S. Bordewyk, A. Vroegop, and K. Gatchalian

Meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

I. Public Comments
There were no public comments.

II. Updates

Finance

Provided by Julie Davis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

- A. Assistant Superintendent Davis shared that the December Monthly Financial Statements were reviewed and a brief bond construction update was given at the Board Finance Committee meeting, yesterday.
- B. Assistant Superintendent Davis shared information and provided explanation about the operating millage and what that funding source provides for the district, as it is about to expire. Historically, we have asked for 10 year renewals; however, we would like to go for a six year renewal to align the renewals with other elections. This would put our next renewal request on the ballot during the 2030 presidential election.
- C. EPACT Check was received in the amount of \$55,000 and presented to FHPS.
- D. Assistant Superintendent Davis shared the action items going forward to the Board; Central High renovations, Eastern Chiller replacement, Central Middle mechanicals, Northern High cafeteria furniture, Eastern High office furniture, and a brief budget amendment description.

Technology

Provided by Susan Bordewyk, Director of Technology

- A. Director Bordewyk shared that the Technology Department is most associated with infrastructure technology; however, the Technology Department plays a large role in educational technologies. She shared some examples for the elementary level, middle school level, high school level, and athletic specific technology. This includes science-based technologies, AI related technologies, robotics, virtual reality, and health and wellness. Some of the items supported are small-scale as requested through FHPS Foundation grants received by individual teachers. Some projects support specific student populations, e.g. multilingual learners, and some projects are larger-scale.

Instruction

Provided by Scott Haid, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

- A. [Presentation](#)- Kim Van Antwerp, Director of Instructional Services, Averi Vroegop, instructional coach, and Katherine Gatchalian, teacher, presented information to the committee on Junior Kindergarten. They shared a video, available on the FHPS website and social media platforms, and provided a description of the items that would be part of the programming and skill building for junior kindergarteners. An informational night will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Parents will have final say in placement for the student. Placement will be determined by parent survey, observation, screening, and discussion. Next steps are interviewing for teaching positions and the opening of the application process.
- B. [Presentation](#)-Jon Gregory, Director of Secondary Systems and Programming, presented the updates for the 2025-2026 High School Course Description Guide. Director Gregory shared that the discussion and development of this document comes from the Secondary Steering Committee. The committee consists of secondary administrators, counselors, registrars, and the Pupil Accounting Specialist. He shared the course deletions, course additions, course revisions, new course proposals, and other wording or information changes needed for accuracy and clarity. Process description of how a new course comes to be was shared.
 - 1. The new courses moving forward to the Board for approval are:
 - a) MLL English Language Arts (ELA)
 - b) MLL Language Development
 - c) Pre-AP English 1
 - d) Honors Pre-AP English 1
 - e) Pre-AP English 2
 - f) Chemistry II
- C. Assistant Superintendent Haid shared that the district will be forming an Elementary Report Card Committee to review current elementary report cards and make any recommendations for changes. Assistant Superintendent Haid also shared that elementary schools will begin having Literacy Nights for parents to come and learn more about literacy. Dates will vary as those will be scheduled by the individual schools.

III. Action

- A. Approval of the [December 11, 2024](#), meeting minutes.
- B. Recommendations
 - 1. Approval of the new course proposals
 - a) MLL English Language Arts (ELA)
 - b) MLL Language Development
 - c) Pre-AP English 1
 - d) Honors Pre-AP English 1
 - e) Pre-AP English 2
 - f) Chemistry II

IV. Superintendent's Update

- A. Superintendent Kirby shared that he will be attending the local MASA Winter Conference for the remainder of the week.

- B. Superintendent Kirby shared that the district will be going back to using the 2020 Title IX guidance and vacating the 2024 guidance. Policy revisions will be taking place with the district legal team.
- C. Superintendent Kirby shared that the district will be holding its annual professional development day on Monday, January 20, 2025. Typically, this is an instruction/curriculum based professional development day; however, this year the focus will be on school safety and security in the morning. The afternoon will be at individual schools with the elementary buildings working on the TRAILS training and secondary buildings working on security and safety protocols for their buildings with the help of the SROs.

Meeting ended at 3:57 p.m.