


FEB 08 2018

MEMO

To: Howard Colter
From: Jeffrey Shedd 
Date: February 8, 2018
Subject: Background on Board Agenda Items

I hope it's OK to consolidate background information about a number of School Board agenda items.

Washington, D.C. Trip. I have attached the trip request from Mr. Jordan for his A.P. Government classes. The trip would be from March 20-23.

International Baccalaureate Study Group Chair Stipend. Social Studies chair Sarah Harrington has recently stepped down from that position (see nominations below to replace her) to lead a group of teachers/administrators in a study of a possible application for CEHS to become recognized as an International Baccalaureate authorized school. The International Baccalaureate is a challenging, internationally recognized curriculum that is used in many schools around the world. Students taking the International Baccalaureate take end-of-year exams that are externally scored. Compared to the Advanced Placement program, the I.B. program tends to emphasize self-reflection, student inquiry and research, and a more in-depth, interdisciplinary approach to learning. A team of eight teachers, led by Sarah, is investigating this direction as a possibility. We will be pleased to do a presentation to the Board after we have learned more. This is preliminary work. It does not mean any programming changes for next year. If we were to move forward, next year would be a year of application. The proposal is to compensate Sarah for her work on this group, based on the hourly rate in the collective bargaining agreement, up to a maximum of \$2,000. These funds will come from the Principal's account, which is outside of the regular school budget. In other words, the proposal would be budget neutral, having no impact on any existing school accounts.

0.1 FTS Math Teacher addition. This is the second year in our experience of having all incoming 9th grade students start in full-year Algebra 1 or higher. We worked hard to make this work for every student, but it became clear through class performance and results of multiple standardized tests (Accuplacer, NWEA, PSAT) that for some students, full-year Algebra moves too fast, and there were certain missing underlying math skill that needed to be shored up. After multiple meetings with the math department, we decided to provide nine students the option of taking a pre-Algebra class second semester either in lieu of or in addition to their Algebra class. The Principal and school counselor met with every single family and student individually to review this option. All students and families except one were enthusiastic about this option. The class now has nine students in it because another student has since joined after a similar meeting. The class we are offering is co-taught by Heather Bubier, a certified math teacher, and Ben Raymond, a special education teacher. Ms.

Bubier started in this role as a long-term substitute teacher while we advertised this open 0.1 FTE position. There were no applicants for it other than Ms. Bubier, so the proposal is to expand her current part-time math teaching position by hiring her for this new, 0.1 FTE position to support these students. We are shifting funds from other accounts so that this proposal has zero impact on the budget.

Change in Social Studies Department Chairs. As you can see above, Sarah Harrington has chosen to step down as department chair so that she can focus on her work leading the International Baccalaureate Study Group, while also teaching her classes. Mark Ashe and Mary Page have graciously agreed to lead the department for the remainder of the year, splitting the remaining stipend and responsibilities 70% for Mr. Ashe and 30% for Ms. Page. I believe they will do great jobs together in these roles.