

Priorities 2009-2010

Foreign Language

Report to the Board of Education

December 22, 2009

A Brief Review

- At this point, we have provided the Board with a completed 3rd grade Spanish curriculum.
- Tonight we discuss
 - staffing needs for 4th grade Spanish next year
 - A plan to create a 2nd foreign language option in middle school beginning in September, 2010
 - A plan to include Mandarin and Italian among middle school language offerings
 - A plan to begin offering foreign language instruction via online learning.
- Future reports
 - January – foreign language, *6-12th grades*
 - February – long-term viability of the Latin program.
 - Spring – 3rd grade Spanish assessment and the final steps in completing the elementary FLES program

Acronym map:

- CD-ROM [Compact Disc—Read Only Memory]
- WWW [World Wide Web]
- VLE [Virtual Learning Environment]
- FTE [Full Time Employee]
- FLES [Foreign Language in Elementary School]
- BOCES [Board of Cooperative Educational Services]
- “Synchronous” [Occurring at the same time]
- “Asynchronous” [Occurring at different times]

Foreign Language

By Dec. 2009, the Board will receive a memorandum that identifies staffing needs of a 4th grade Spanish program

- Current FLES staff – 4 FTEs
- 2010-2011 Staffing
 - Roll-out of FLES program ends with addition of 4th grade
 - No need for additional FLES teachers for Grade 1-5 program
 - Milton: 1 FTE
 - Osborn: 1.5 FTE
 - Midland: 1.5 FTE
 - Section assignments
 - 3 teachers who remain at one school will teach 16-17 sections
 - 1 teacher (divided between Osborn and Midland) will teach 14 sections

Congratulations to our FLES Team!

- Ms. Gobbo, Ms. Franco, Ms. Franco and Ms. Tutino's workshop "*Establishing/Maintaining an Exemplary FLES Program*," has been selected as the best workshop in New York State by their colleagues in the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers. They will represent the entire State at the Northeast Conference of Teachers of Foreign Languages in March, 2010.

Foreign Language

By December, 2009, the Board will receive a memorandum containing a plan for a second-language elective option in the middle school, with anticipated staffing implications

- Recommendation
 - Create a second foreign language option for all students in middle school beginning in September, 2010
 - Make Spanish a 6-8th grade requirement beginning with the entering 6th grade class in September, 2012
- Effects of this program on French and Latin will be unknown until students sign up for courses:
 - Online options offered in middle school will be available to high school students.

Middle School Choices

- 6th graders who choose a second language will have to decide between art and technology or music/exploratory
- 7th graders who choose a second language will not take Home and Careers and Technology
- 8th graders who choose a second language could not also take music [because of the 1/2 health requirement]
 - However if the second language could be taken online or outside the regular school day, this constraint could be overcome

Virtual Learning/Online Learning

- What is Online Learning?
 - Online content available via: CD-ROM, WWW, Web-based, Interactive networks.
- What is a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)?
 - The software context in which online learning occurs (wikis, blogs, different assessment and delivery options, combinations of electronic and human features).

Who Currently Utilizes Online Learning?

- China, Singapore, Mexico
- Local districts: Katonah-Lewisboro, Lakeland, Port Chester, Tuckahoe, Elmsford
- 32 US states have statewide VLEs
 - Florida enrolls 100,000 students in a VLE that supplements curriculum

Virtual Learning/Online Learning

Examples

- *Rosetta Stone [CD-ROM]*
 - Mandarin and Italian
 - 24/7 access (at-home access may be possible)
 - Can be customized with quantifiable assessments
 - Meets state and national standards
 - Requires in-house teacher

Virtual Learning/Online Learning

Examples

- *Euro Talk [CD-ROM]*
 - Italian and Mandarin offered
 - MP3 content downloads for home use
 - Unknown whether meeting state and national standards
 - Requires in-house teacher/facilitator
 - 24/7 access (at-home access may be possible)

Virtual Learning/Online Learning

Examples

- *Ball State University Program [WWW]*
 - 24/7 access
 - Mandarin offered

Virtual Learning/Online Learning

Examples

- *AccelerateU [WWW]*
 - Mandarin and Spanish offered
 - Instructor-based
 - Online instructor grades assignments, sends test scores to district
 - Requires in-house liaison
 - NY State certified teachers

Virtual Learning/Online Learning

Examples

- *Laurel Springs School [WWW]*
 - Oral and written exercises, pronunciation exercises
 - Accredited by Western Association of Schools [not known whether NY also approves]
 - Demands great deal of student self-discipline
 - Totally virtual private high school (CA), with a curriculum company by the same name

Virtual Learning/Online Learning

Examples

- *Virtual High School [WWW]*
 - Mandarin offered
 - Internet-based class
 - Limited class size
 - Interaction between “live” teacher and students
 - Interesting “synchronous” options
 - Courses monitored and adhere to NEA guidelines
 - Teachers not necessarily NY certified

Summary of Recommendations and Costs:

- Recommendations:
 - Offer second language option to all middle school students beginning in Sept. 2010
 - Make Spanish a middle school (6-8) requirement beginning in Sept. 2012
 - Make Home and Careers and Technology elective courses
 - Pilot a CD-ROM/Network program, such as Rosetta Stone, in both middle and high schools
 - Pilot an online program, such as VHS or AccelerateU, in middle and high schools

Virtual Learning/Online Learning Cost

- *Rosetta Stone*
 - Roughly \$100 per student per year (extensive list of choices)
- *Euro Talk*
 - Up to 10 users, \$495; to 20 users, \$595; to 100 users, \$995
- *Laurel Springs*
 - \$1125 per student
- *Virtual High School*
 - Membership model, includes training, site coordinator membership
 - \$11,500 (25 students/semester)
 - Student model
 - \$8,500 - \$17,000 depending on number of students
- *AccelerateU*
 - \$10,000

Other Costs:

- Additional sections in middle school in 2010 (unknown)
- Additional sections in middle school in 2012 (unknown)
- Teacher supervision of online student learning (unknown)
- Increasing bandwidth approx. \$30,000