



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

November 4, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 9.1

TOPIC: Proposed Secondary Credit Changes for the 2011-12 School Year

BACKGROUND: Based on a study of the new Minnesota Academic Standards for Science, the testing schedules associated with the standards, and alignment work of the Science Curriculum Review Committee, a recommendation for an increase in grades 7-12 science credits was brought to district administration.

PROCESS: For many years, FLAS has had fewer science requirements at the junior high level when compared with other Minnesota school districts. With changes in standards, it has become difficult to place standards and address them adequately within the current schedule and credit requirement. At the high school, the Science Curriculum Review Team also identified the need for an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ credit of science to meet the standards.

The updated proposal involves increasing the science requirements at the junior high by a $\frac{1}{2}$ credit and at the senior high by a $\frac{1}{2}$ credit. It is also proposed that elective choice available at grades 7 through 12 be increased, while some requirements at grades 7-12 are decreased.

A proposal that included increasing science credits at the Jr. High and High School while decreasing elective requirements at the Jr. High and High School was brought forward for Board consideration at the September 2, 2010, meeting. A second proposal came forth at the October 7, 2010, School Board meeting. A third option for consideration is coming forth at the November 4, 2010 School Board meeting.

The proposed changes will be reflected in Policy 613, Graduation Requirements. Changes in language will be discussed at the upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Third reading of proposed credit changes at the secondary level. Included in this reading is a third proposed credit change option which features more opportunity for elective choice at grades 7 and 8, along with a new opportunity for students and parents to plan out a Jr. High educational path for two years, similar to the opportunity students and families have to plan out an educational path at grades 9-12.