



Board of Education Agenda Abstract

Meeting Date: June 12, 2014
Agenda Type: Discussion and Action
Agenda Item #: 2a

Subject: Approval of Mandarin Lottery Process

Division:	Instructional Services	Department:	Dual Language/World Language
Person Responsible:	Magda Parvey Elaine Watson-Grant	Feedback Requested From:	

Public Hearing Required: Yes No
Previous Work Session Yes No Date:
Previous Discussion and Action Yes No Date:

Attachment(s): N/A

Purpose: To seek Board approval of the Mandarin lottery process.

Background: The Board has recently acknowledged that the purpose of the Mandarin program has changed, based on the student population served. Originally, the program served a greater number of native Mandarin speakers who were designated as Limited English Proficient (LEP). However, as this year's data show, of the 100 Mandarin LEP students served district-wide at the elementary level, only 13% are enrolled in the Mandarin program, down from last year's 20%.

The applicant pool for the last three years also reflects a change in demand, with a consistent predominance of native English speakers. Based on student enrollment data and the applicant data, it has been established that the primary purpose of the program is the acquisition and development of Mandarin language skills. Instead of being called "dual language," the program would more accurately

be designated as “immersion,” which addresses Mandarin acquisition as an end in itself, as opposed to accelerating students’ English skills.

As a result of the change in the program’s purpose, and trends in demand for access, the administration proposes a change in the lottery process. Traditionally, the lottery selection demanded 50% native speakers, and 50% non-native speakers. While we were able to fill two Kindergarten classes last year within the 50/50 structure, this year, we are unable to fill the second class, due to the low number of native speakers of the target language.

Since the program is immersion, and the purpose is not to accelerate LEP students, the language allocation in the lottery is no longer necessary. If the board would like to maintain the two Kindergarten tracks, we recommend a lottery process that reflects the program’s established purpose. The administration proposes that a single lottery be held, without regard for native language.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

PERSONNEL IMPACT: None

<p>RECOMMENDATION: Administration requests that the board approve the revised Mandarin lottery process--a single lottery, without regard for native language--to reflect the true purpose of the program.</p>
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