



**Board of Education
Administrative Report**

Title of Report: 6th Grade Transition Program

Board Meeting Date: April 22, 2019

Action

Report

Information

Discussion

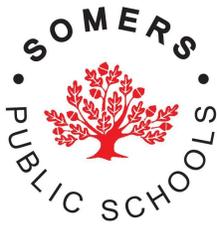
Submitted by: Irene Zytka

Executive Summary

Transition to middle school is marked by several changes in educational expectations and practices. “Once students reach middle school, they must interact with more peers, more teachers, and with intensified expectations for both performance and individual responsibility. Social, developmental, and academic experiences are affected, requiring them to adjust to what they see as new settings, structures, and expectations.” (Supporting Students in Their Transition to Middle School – Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) A Position Paper Jointly Adopted by National Middle School Association and The National Association of Elementary School Principals, March 2002)

Effective transition programs enhance student success, attendance and learning and set the foundation for a transition from a highly structured environment to one less structured. The need arises for students to manage their time wisely, keep up with multiple classes and navigate social interactions. The objective of the 6th grade transition program is to provide students with the tools needed to assure that they have a successful transition not only for middle school but high school as well.

Report



**Board of Education
Administrative Report**

Proposal	Elimination of the exploratory World language program: creation of a 6th grade Transition class
Rationale: How does this plan meet our current district/school needs?	<p>The 6th grade transition class will provide instruction in crucial transition issues for middle school. Suggested topics are:</p> <p>Introduction to Middle School- How things work Outline of three years of academics Goals Working with 7 teachers Organizing homework Getting involved - review of activities offered throughout the year Digital /Media Literacy (Rob Wilson) Internet Safety Determining reliability of sources (Diane Jennings/MBA Media Specialist) Communication Skills: Communicating with parents, peers, teachers, etc. Study skills / Executive functioning Social Emotional Learning curriculum-various topics Presentation skills How to work in a group (Group Dynamics) Healthy living - diet, sleep Community Service Project Career/College Planning Outdoor education</p> <p>Introduction to languages (Spanish/French). The exploration and selection process of either French or Spanish in Grade 7 can be explored and decided upon during the 6th grade seminar class with presentation by the actual teachers.</p>
Plan	A curriculum-writing group from MBA will meet after the school year with the Director of Curriculum to write the curriculum for the class. Prior to this, Administration from MBA will get input from the staff on the crucial issues facing 6th grade transition. Central Office will look to post the position in the spring with the expectation that the person taking on this class will also be involved in the writing.
Staff Implications	Will need to hire a 6th grade seminar teacher. Position currently in the budget as a 0.6 FTE Spanish/French teacher



**Board of Education
Administrative Report**