

Meeting Summary WL Update
Tuesday, December 16, 2008
SLEC 2:30-4:00

Present: Bonnie Bougie, Katie Larson, Laura Rivers, Tina Tanner, Jae Cody, Betty Lotterman, Colleen Wambach, Penny Howard, Sheila Eller, Mona Fadness, Dan Hoverman, RE

Discussion:

- History of the past middle school world language program. Teachers explained that the instructional program itself was quite successful; there were problems related to students moving from middle to high school WL classes; the program was discontinued before the teachers had an opportunity to resolve the issues. Betty Lotterman distributed a letter from WL teachers that clarified the information.
- Middle school scheduling proposals—principals described the models and discussed the rationale: 6th grade 1 qtr of WL; 7th grade 1qtr of WL; 8th grade 1 semester of WL
- All acknowledged that the proposals do not meet the FLES standard for time and frequency; discussion of “value added” as a more accurate way of discussing the goal of the program based on the current proposal than proficiency; discussion of the necessity of assessments including a placement test to use at the end of 8th grade.
- In response to a question about the proportion of students who could possibly attain Level 1 proficiency, teachers suggested that 10-15% of students, particularly the most highly motivated students could attain proficiency in the proposed models.
- Teachers discussed other values of the program in preparing students for the high school world language experience.
- Proposals are continuing to be refined.
- Impact on high school Level 1. There may need to be a Spanish 1+ as students come to high school and elect to continue in Spanish with some Level 1 skills already in place.
- Curriculum/assessment development will need to begin as soon as possible based on board action.
- Timeline for decision making. WL program action item January 27th board meeting.
- Teachers were asked to use their networks to alert colleagues about openings after Jan 27th based on board action.