

Meeting Summary WL Update
Monday, January 05, 2009
Irondale 2:15-3:00

Present: Jesse Abing, Rachel Brenk, Paul Coleman, Connie Eklund, Lesley Quintero, Christine Wall, Maureen Curran, RE

Discussion:

- Proposed World Language program implementation scenarios include grades 4-8.
Elementary: Language instruction in the Unit Studies block in elementary
Middle School: 6th grade 1Qtr; 7th grade 1 Qtr; 8th grade 1 Semester

Acknowledging that the proposal is less than ideal, teachers expressed support for the proposal as a good place to begin implementing a much needed program

Comments:

Quality of the staff and materials are key considerations.

Appropriate licensure *and* ability to teach the language competently—dual licensure in elementary (some dual licensed people may be good elementary teachers, but not have taught the language recently and may not be up to date on best instructional practice)

There will need to be “rolling” curriculum development since each year students will enter the next grade level having experienced more instruction in the language at earlier grades

There will be an on-going impact on the high school Spanish curriculum.

Even though just one language (likely Spanish) is proposed, implementing the program will be a benefit rather than a detriment to the high school program as it will motivate students to learn languages.

We need to be clear in communicating to parents that beginning Level 2 in high school is far from a foregone conclusion.

A placement test will be used to determine the skill levels the students have as they move into the high school program.

The students who can reach proficiency within the proposed model from grades 4-8 is greater than 10%.

- Timeline— Jan 8 Discussion of options at school board work session—January 8
Jan 27 Action expected –grade level; language; implementation timeline

Overall teachers are positive about this expansion of the WL program to middle and elementary schools

