

*November 18, 2008 Focused Forum
Summary of Board, Superintendent and Principal comments*

Cost neutral staffing costs will lead to sustainability.

Cost neutrality requires that difficult choices must be made regarding the impact on non- core offerings at the middle schools.

This requires that value judgments must be made regarding what is most important for our students at the middle school level, and we must be able to effectively and creatively continue to address social studies and science standards at the elementary level.

All elementary and middle schools must offer programs which are comparable.

Program must be progressive in the grades in which it is offered. The goal of the program is to enhance the ability of our students to have a more in-depth language experience when they reach the high school.

Offering teaching jobs which can be as close as possible to full-time will make the positions more attractive to prospective qualified teachers.

This is not the first time nor will it be the last time that we will need to engage in the process of program review to determine if we are providing the best program/s that we can afford for our students.

There will be continuing opportunities for parents and community members to provide feedback.

In January, the Board will review a range of options and make a decision regarding future action.

This process is occurring as a result of strong and persistent community feedback in favor of adding world languages in elementary and middle schools. It is not driven by a desire to merely maintain our position among the top districts in the metro.