

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #624**



**WORK-STUDY
AGENDA**

January 7, 2013

To: Members of the School Board

From: Dr. Michael J. Lovett
Superintendent of Schools

Date: January 2, 2013

A special work-study session of the White Bear Lake Area School Board will be held on **Monday, January 7, 2013** at 5:30 p.m. in Room 201 at the District Center, 4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN, to review revised recommendations to begin an orchestra program beginning in 2013-14.

WORK-STUDY AGENDA

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call

B. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Review revised recommendations to begin an orchestra program beginning in 2013-14.

C. ADJOURNMENT

6:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: **Orchestra Proposal**

MEETING DATE: **January 7, 2013**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

CONTACT PERSON(S): **Michael Lovett, Superintendent**
David Law, Assistant Superintendent

BACKGROUND:

This year's School Board/Superintendent Goal 5 provides that we "*develop plans for a String Orchestra Program with the first phase programming beginning in the 2013-14 School Year.*"

At our September Work Study Session, Curriculum & Program Development Coordinator Lisa Switzer, and high school band teachers Shannon Anderson and Jeremy Rockford presented a proposed timeline for an orchestra planning committee.

At our October Work Study Session, Lisa Switzer and Shannon Anderson provided a progress update to the School Board.

At our November Work Study Session, Shannon Anderson, Jeremy Rockford and Lisa Switzer presented initial recommendations for consideration.

Tonight Shannon Anderson, Jeremy Rockford and Lisa Switzer will present revised recommendations based on School Board questions regarding both short term and long term financial feasibility.

HISTORY OF ORCHESTRA RECOMMENDATION

- 2011 - 2012 - Preliminary work led by WBL music department
- March 2012- Initial discussions with music department, Superintendent and Principals
- September 13, 2012 - orchestra discussion
- September 20, 2012 - meeting with GTCYS fine art director, U of M fine arts director and University of MN conductor.
- September 24, 2012 - Initial presentation to School Board
- September 27, 2012 - initial orchestra planning committee meeting
- September 28, 2012 - meeting with Nancy Wiessner; Fine Arts Director in South Washington County School District 833
- October 8, 2012 – Orchestra planning committee meeting to organize initial recommendations
- October 22, 2012 - Update to School Board October 22, 2012
- November 5, 2012 - final orchestra planning committee meeting
- November 26, 2012 - Preliminary recommendations to School Board
- January 7, 2013 – Revised recommendations to School Board
- January 14, 2013 - Administrative recommendations for School Board approval
- January 2012 - Begin implementation as approved by School Board
- September 2013 - Orchestra program begins as approved by School Board

ORCHESTRA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Shannon Anderson.....Music, WBLAHS, South Campus; Secondary Curriculum Leader
 Jeremy Rockford.....Music, WBLAHS, North Campus
 Mike Snell.....Music, Sunrise Park Middle School
 Marie Dymit.....Music, WBLAHS, South Campus
 Jennifer Gere.....Music, Sunrise and Central Middle
 Kristin Kusche.....Music, Central Middle School
 Dan Gullick.....Music, Birch Lake/Hugo; Elementary Curriculum Leader
 Scott Keen.....Music, Willow Lane/Matoska
 Mike Mason.....Parent, band boosters
 Robert McDowell.....Administrator, Sunrise Park Middle School
 Noel Schmidt.....Administrator, Central Middle School; department administrative liaison
 David Law.....Assistant Superintendent
 Peter Wilcoxon Sr.....Executive Director of Business Services
 Lisa Switzer.....Curriculum and Program Development Coordinator

CHARGE OF THE COMMITTEE

The goal of the review committee is to ensure an excellent music experience in White Bear Lake Area Schools by complementing band, choir and general music with orchestra.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ORCHESTRA

❖ **Begin the orchestra program in 6th grade in 2013-14**

- Offer an after-school opportunity for 7-12 ensemble.
- Build capacity at elementary level in partnership with MacPhail.

❖ **Add high school offerings in 2016-2017**

Each year through 2015 we would add a grade level at the middle school. North Campus would add an orchestra program in 2016. South Campus would begin orchestra in 2018.

❖ **Re-evaluate start of orchestra in 6th grade vs. elementary**

- Younger children have an *easier time holding* string instruments.
- *Bowing and fingering* is more natural for younger students.

❖ **High School orchestra scheduling consideration:**

Orchestra registration at the high school level is a string only offering. Brass, percussion and woodwind students register for Band. Orchestra and the top band scheduled the same hour to allow for large orchestral instrumentation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS OF ORCHESTRA

- Instructor
- Instruments and Instructional Materials
- Facilities

INSTRUCTOR

- Additional students in our current grades 4 and 5 will require additional staffing with or without the addition of orchestra.
- Therefore a decision to add orchestra would require only a minor increase in staffing. We anticipate by year three of implementation, staffing would be cost-neutral.

INSTRUMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS INCREMENTAL PLAN

CENTRAL AND SUNRISE MIDDLE SCHOOLS		
2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1 section at Central 1 section at Sunrise Instruments needed: • 12 violas - 12 cellos - 8 basses (total for both middle schools) Other needs: • 20 library songs • Complete set of year one method/ technique books • Repair and maintenance budget • 2 cello, 2 bass and 2 violin/viola mobile racks	2 sections at Central 2 sections at Sunrise Instruments needed: • 12 violas - 12 cellos - 8 basses (total for both middle schools) Other needs: • 40 library songs • Complete set of two year method/ technique books • Repair and maintenance budget • cello, bass, violin/viola mobile racks mobile racks	3 sections at Central 3 sections at Sunrise Instruments needed: • 12 violas - 12 cellos - 8 basses (total for both middle schools) Other needs: • 60 library songs • Complete set of method/ technique books • Repair and maintenance budget • cello, bass, violin/viola mobile racks mobile racks

North Campus added	
2016-17	2017-18
3 sections at Central 3 sections at Sunrise 2 sections at North Instruments needed: • 12 violas - 12 cellos - 8 basses (at North Campus) Other needs: • 80 library songs • Complete set of high school method/ technique books • Repair and maintenance budget • cello, bass and violin/viola mobile racks	4 sections at Central 4 sections at Sunrise 3 sections at North Instruments needed: • 6 violas - 6 cellos - 4 basses (at North Campus) Other needs: • 100 library songs • Complete set of high school method/ technique books • Repair and maintenance budget • cello, bass and violin/viola mobile racks

South Campus added
2018-19
4 sections at Central 4 sections at Sunrise 3 sections at North 2 sections at South Campus Instruments needed: • 12 violas - 12 cellos - 8 basses (at South Campus) Other needs: • 120 library songs • Complete set of high school technique books 3.0 • Repair and maintenance budget • cello, bass and violin/viola mobile racks

FACILITIES

CENTRAL AND SUNRISE MIDDLE SCHOOLS		
2013-14	2014-15/2015-16	
Central Middle School • Reallocate space • Choir room used for orchestra one period • Reconfigure Storage Space Sunrise Middle School • Reallocate space • Band room used for orchestra one period • Reconfigure Storage Space	Central Middle Schools • Reallocate space • Redo storage • Possible restructure of adjacent general music room Sunrise Park Middle Schools • Reallocate space • Band or choir room used for orchestra two periods • Reconfigure storage space	

North Campus added	South Campus added
• Reallocate space • Band room used for orchestra • Reconfigure storage space	• Reallocate space • Band room used for orchestra • Reconfigure storage space

NEXT STEPS

- Prepare recommendation for School Board approval January 14, 2013
- Students register.....January, 2013
- Determine middle school enrollment.....February, 2013
- Consider storage and hire instructor.....Spring, 2013