Curriculum Director's Report

June 16, 2009

CURRICULUM:

1. **Instructional Materials Committee**: As a result of the extension on the math adoption process for middle school math materials, the 7 members of the district IMC agreed to add an additional meeting to this year's schedule. Therefore the committee met Wednesday, June 10 to consider German texts and supplemental math software in addition to the middle school math recommendation. A request for approval will be submitted for the June Board meeting.

2. **Math Adoption Update**: At the conclusion of the April meeting, the review committee identified the *Connected Math Program 2* as their recommendation for adoption for middle school. Yet, I had informed the team at that time that review copies of *Math Thematics* had been ordered. They agreed to complete a preliminary review of these materials to establish whether or not there was a compelling or justifiable reason to take the additional time (3-4 hours) to complete a formal evaluation of these materials. If so, substitutes would be secured and the team would meet one more time.

   After receiving the materials in early May, team members for each grade level reviewed texts primarily for content coverage and concept development. Although the grade 6 text book appeared to be strong, there were concerns regarding the content covered in grades 7 & 8. Team members did not feel the texts would properly prepare students for success at the high school level. In addition there were concerns that all 42 sessions had to be covered within a school year in order for students to obtain the full advantage of the materials. That would be a minimum of 1 session every 4 days with no flexibility for interruptions in the schedule.

   Considering this information, it was determined that we had no compelling reasons to take more time out of the instructional day to review *Math Thematics,* and we would move forward with the original recommendation of *Connected Mathematics Program 2*. (Evaluation results attached.)

ASSESSMENT:

1. **High School Preliminary Results:** Individual score reports for the high school reading, writing and math WASL have arrived. These reports are sent home to parents in order to provide an opportunity for those not meeting standard to register for the August assessment window. Registration is open until June 26. Tests will be administered August 10 -13 at the high school.

2. **State Assessment Item Writing:** Two of our middle school math teachers, Walt Shucka and Andrea Austad will be working with OSPI assessment staff and other Washington State educators to write math test items that will be used on future state assessments. This will provide these teachers a first hand experience with the structure of the new assessments.

INSTRUCTION:

The K-5 Math Leadership Team will be meeting July 15 to begin work on preparing for the implementation of *Investigations.* Team members will be examining individual grade level units to determine the level of emphasis for instruction for each lesson and to identify needs for supplemental materials. The high school team began similar work on June 15 and will be meeting 4 more days in August.