



# Lexington Public Schools

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**To:** Dr. Paul B. Ash  
Members of the Lexington School Committee

**From:** Carol A. Pilarski

**Re:** Elementary World Language

**Date:** December 16, 2014

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This memorandum serves as a reminder that two motions will need to be made regarding the future implementation of an Elementary World Language Program and the concurrent lengthening of the school day, as was recommended by the World Language Committee in its report of June 10, 2014. The support of the two motions proposed below will have budgetary implications for academic years beginning in FY16, as well as in future years. The budgetary impact will need to be considered in all future deliberations.

It should be noted that specific funding amounts cannot be detailed or even estimated at this time, since the two suggested Task Forces have not as yet been established to study the design of such a program or the costs related to the program and the extension of the school day.

### **Motion Number 1:**

We, the Lexington Public School Committee vote to endorse the implementation of an *Elementary World Language Program* in the FY18 academic year based on the recommendation of the World Language Committee that current programming not be compromised and that the school day be lengthened by approximately 2 hours.

### **Motion Number 2:**

We, the Lexington Public School Committee vote to endorse the establishment of the two Task Forces outlined in the World Language Report of June 10, 2014: The *Elementary World Language Design Team* and the *Implementation Task Force*.

I have included below, the Elementary World Language Committee’s recommendations and possible timetables, as were suggested in the June 10, 2014 report.

**I. Recommendations:**

- The committee wholeheartedly endorses the reinstatement of an Elementary World Language Program in the Lexington Public Schools;
- The committee feels strongly that the reinstatement of such a program should be established without compromising the highly effective curricular and instructional programs currently in place in our elementary schools; and
- The above two recommendations would require a lengthening of the school day and subsequent extensive discussions centered on a re-design of the current schedule for our elementary schools. This task clearly represents a highly complex and multi-faceted challenge that would need to include the voices of many stakeholders. In order to ensure high quality, success, and continued sustainability for this program, a thoughtful design and implementation plan must be established. We strongly believe that such a process would require at a minimum three years of planning.

**II. Suggested Implementation Plan, Timetable, and Next Steps**

- **December 2014:** Superintendent and School Committee vote to endorse the following next steps and implementation timetable.
- **January 2015 – August 2015:**
  1. The Superintendent will establish an *Elementary World Language Program Design Team* to study, develop, and design the world language program requirements; determine associated expenses, including staffing, materials, supplies, and professional learning. In the process, this committee would address the following unanswered questions:
    - Which language(s) will be taught? Spanish, French, Mandarin?
    - If multiple languages were to be offered, how would the possible unbalanced demand for one language over another, impact scheduling?
    - At which grade level/s will we begin instruction in the first year of implementation?

- Which additional grade level/s will be added incrementally into the progression?
- Would additional classroom space be required?
- In what ways might the choice of the World Language impact the availability of qualified teaching staff?
- In light of current research, what would be the number of minutes per week and/or number of days per week required to implement a high quality World Language program?

2. The Superintendent and other administrators will work with the Lexington Education Association to discuss and negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions associated with the lengthening of the school day by approximately two hours. (The *Implementation Task Force*). In addition to providing the time required for a high quality world language program, the extra time may allow for increased collaborative planning, professional learning opportunities, and necessary modifications to schedules that address the changing educational needs of our schools and community. Considerations would include topics such as changes to the school day, contract negotiations, adjustment of transportation schedules, and more.

- **September 2015 – November 2015:**
  - Public Discussion and Hearings for Community Input
  - Regular Update Reports to School Committee from both the *World Language Design Team* and the *Implementation Task Force*
- **December 2015 – May 2016:** School Committee reviews the required budget to support the collaborative recommendation of the *Elementary World Language Design Team* and the *Implementation Task Force*.
- **May 2016:** School Committee endorsement of the proposed plan
- **August/September 2017:** Launch the first year of the Elementary World Language Program