

Bei Dou Xing Parent Meeting Notes
12-10-2012

Meeting was held at 7pm in room 233 of the Eisenhower Community Center

AGENDA:

- Dec 10th Guest Speakers: Diane Schimelpfenig, Hopkins Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, and Nik Lightfoot, Hopkins Director of Administrative Services, will join us at our December meeting. Diane Schimelpfenig will share updates about secondary planning (junior high) for the Chinese immersion program. Nik Lightfoot will discuss teacher tenure and longevity in immersion schools.
- BDX Update on 8th Grade Cultural Experience: Kimberly Ruthenbeck, president of Bei Dou Xing, will share information on the work underway to design and prepare for the student trip to china.

MEETING NOTES:

Nik Lightfoot: teacher tenure and longevity in immersion schools

- There's an incredible demand for teachers, small pool of candidates and MN not easy state to get teaching license in.
- Teachers have a 3 year window to work on limited teaching license,
- Courses offered by Hamline locally and Bemidji online
- Immigration requirements also an issue
- Importance of living in US prior to teaching in an American school MN requires schools to pull from local qualified candidates before we can recruit internationally
- District does ongoing training with ALL teachers
- Expense of certification is considerable, BDX funds are an incredible draw
- BDX can offer grants that the district cannot, good recruitment tool
- 5 XinXing teachers have completed licensure, all others are in the process
- The district does exit interviews with teachers that leave the district
- Turnover is happening in all MN Chinese immersions, not just xinxing
- 6th grade posting is up for next year, not hired yet

Diane Schimelpfenig: secondary planning (junior high) for the Chinese immersion program

- Junior High offering: at least 2 content courses, science math or social studies
- At this time next year we will know what the courses will be. Will also have roadmap like the one created for Puntos World language.
- Want to offer Chinese as language for non immersion students as well.
- Immersion will fulfill high school world language credit requirements
- Looking into AP Chinese exam for HS level, this would allow students to earn college credit for their high school language work
- Augmenting outside of school, district is exploring international baccalaureate (IB) programming at the junior high level. This could impact the current block schedule in the future.
- No name for junior high Chinese immersion program, XinXing will stay at elementary level

- Do we have to declare Chinese immersion track? The junior high signup has a full booklet and you register for the two immersion courses. To stay in immersion continuation program, student MUST take both Chinese courses offered.
- There is commitment to offer the secondary immersion courses even if student count drops
- The two Chinese courses should not interfere with ability to choose other electives. Accelerated courses are available in all content areas, FLEX, Honors etc...
- Two course minimum is best practice in secondary immersion
- Flagship universities (currently 10 in US) give fullride scholarships for advanced language ability
- Students may also take another language if schedule allows
- There will be a meeting in January 22 with the district board to discuss IB, parents are welcome. If implemented it will apply to pioneer XinXing class when they reach 7th grade.

Kimberly Ruthenbeck: 8th grade cultural experience

- Please see separate presentation for summary of items discussed.