

BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



THOMAS S. KINGSTON
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
(617) 993-5401

644 PLEASANT STREET
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS 02478-2589
(617) 993-5400
FAX (617) 993-5409

JANICE G. DARIAS
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
FOR CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
(617) 993-5410

ANTHONY R. DI COLOGERO
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE,
BUSINESS & OPERATIONS
(617) 993-5430
FAX (617) 993-5439

March 7, 2013

Floyd Carman, Treasurer
Town of Belmont
Homer Municipal Building
Belmont, MA 02478

Dear Floyd,

On behalf of the Belmont Public Schools, I respectfully request that the oversight committee for the town's Education Fund recommend that the Town allocate \$57,500 from the Education Fund for the initial down payment on a new kindergarten through grade 5 mathematics series.

As you know, the current proposed budget for the Belmont Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2014 includes a necessary reduction of 7.75 professional positions to meet available revenue. Although we have engaged in a two-year review and assessment to replace the now outdated Everyday Math Series, also known as the Chicago Math Program, we have no funds in the FY14 available revenues to afford a down payment on the series. In materials and training, the new mathematics series will cost over the next two years approximately \$200,000. A transfer for FY14 from the Education Fund would allow us to purchase the essential initial materials and subscriptions. We are currently in negotiations with the proposed provider, and we are taking to the March 19 School Committee a request to approve the Envision Math Common Core 2012 Program from Pearson Education. Envision Math is the program that is fully compliant with the new national Core Curriculum Standards. We selected it in consequence of an extensive piloting and assessment effort by district professionals.

Because the funds requested are part of an overall comprehensive plan for implementing Envision Math over two fiscal years, they represent approximately one-quarter of the overall one-time implementation expenditures. We will be applying for additional discretionary grants from other agencies to support professional development for the series; and we will be able to reallocate some operational funds currently budgeted for replacement mathematics materials. Therefore, over the next two years, we believe we will be able to implement the program fully if our request from the Education Fund is approved.

I would be happy to meet with the overseers should they wish further description and justification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Kingston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas S. Kingston
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Belmont School Committee

Proposal for a new Mathematics Program – Grades K-5

Need

New Massachusetts standards for mathematics incorporating the Common Core State Standards were adopted in 2011 (2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics). When Belmont curriculum leaders and teachers began the work of aligning our curriculum and math program to the new standards, it became apparent that the Everyday Math Series is not well aligned in content or pedagogy. Following an extensive review of available materials, the district piloted two programs, and recommends adopting the Envision Math Common Core 2012 Program from Pearson Education. Adoption of this program will provide the opportunity to master the math standards and build a strong foundation for success in math in grades 6 to 12 and beyond.

2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics	Everyday Math Series	Envision Math Common Core 2012
Includes changes to content at each grade level and an increased emphasis number sense and operations.	Content standards for each grade level are not addressed at all or have insufficient coverage.	Program is fully aligned with new standards; provides extensive materials for each content area.
Introduces Standards for Mathematical Practice: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively. 3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. 4. Model with mathematics. 5. Use appropriate tools strategically. 6. Attend to precision. 7. Look for and make use of structure. 8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. 	Standards for Mathematical Practice are not addressed.	Standards for Mathematical Practice are embedded in the program. Materials and resources guide instruction to support students' development of the standards.
Students are expected to master a standard when it is taught.	Students are exposed to standards, and have opportunities to learn them in later units and grades. Standards are "spiraled" through the curriculum.	Standards are taught for mastery, and the materials provide sufficient resources to differentiate instruction for students who need additional practice in order to attain mastery.

Impact

- All students, grades K-5, benefit from the purchase and implementation of the new math program
- Provides foundation necessary for success in mathematics, grades 6-12.

Costs

- Still working with publisher on final cost; current price quote = \$221,863
- Includes:
 - Teacher editions/materials with digital licenses for all classroom teachers and special educators, grades K-5
 - Textbooks and digital license, grades 3-5
 - Student workbooks with digital license, grades K-2
 - Consumables, grades K-5 (to be determined if this will be an annual expense)
 - Digital license for all online materials (for use in classroom and at home)
 - Professional development for educators
 - Resource materials (manipulatives for hands-on learning, materials for differentiating instruction and center-based learning)
 - Technology resources for instruction (videos, SMART Board lessons, formative assessments)
 - Assessment sourcebook, grades 3-5
 - Diagnosis and intervention system, grades K-2
- Estimated cost to implement for each grade (not including professional development cost, \$27,000):

Grade	Cost
K	\$30,908.03
1	\$31,024.90
2	\$31,691.79
3	\$36,830.02
4	\$33,799.22
5	\$30,609.53

- Program could be implemented in phases, for example:
 - Year 1: Grades 3-5 \$101,238.77
 - Year 2: Grades K-2 \$93,624.72

Funding Options

- Operating budget (\$27,600 = funds in FY14 budget for Everyday Math consumables)
- Town's Education Fund
- FBE – will request funding for professional development (currently estimated at \$27,000)
- PTO/PTAs, elementary schools and middle school - will request support for materials