

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Department for Instructional Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Slavens, Judy Mardigian, Steven Sneideman

FROM: Barbara Rodenberg

CC: Jim Ryan

DATE: November 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Elementary Mathematics Program

I hope that you will have an opportunity to read the attached memo prior to our Monday, November 27 Board Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting. Janet Kahan and her Elementary Mathematics Advisory Committee (which includes teachers from each elementary school) have been talking all fall about our current mathematics program and whether we should make any major changes in this program.

Earlier this fall, they received preview copies of the new third edition of the Everyday Math program and sent those copies to each school for all teachers to review. After reviewing these new materials, looking at research on the effectiveness of the Everyday Math program and considering the value of change at this time, they have reached the conclusion that we should upgrade to the third edition of Everyday Mathematics for all teachers and students in grades K – 5 instead of entering what we call the “Explore” phase of our curriculum review process. Janet’s memo explains the reasons for this recommendation. She will be joining us on Monday morning to outline her process and ask for your questions and suggestions for next steps.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Instructional Services Department
MEMO

TO: Barbara Rodenberg
FROM: Janet Kahan
DATE: November 20, 2006
RE: Proposal to Upgrade our Elementary Everyday Math Program to the Third Edition (2007)

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools adopted the first edition of *Everyday Math* for use in 2000-01. Every teacher was provided with extensive training on how to use the program. In addition, the district released two teachers to support the program during the "Focus" years.

The number of research studies indicating the effectiveness of this program grows every year. Many other districts in Michigan and in the US have also adopted *Everyday Math*. For example, 24 of the 28 school districts in Oakland County now use the *Everyday Math* program, up from 13 in 2002-03.

Since our adoption of the Everyday Math program, our MEAP mathematics test scores have steadily improved. In 2002, 75% of our fourth grade students were proficient on this test. By 2004, this percentage had risen to 87% and in 2005, 90% of our fourth graders were proficient on the Math MEAP. We tested third grade students for the first time last fall. Our district average on the third grade Math MEAP test was 94%.

In the Explore phase of our district curriculum review process, a teacher committee looks at every available standards-based series. Extensive research and piloting leads to the district choice. In 2000, this lengthy and thorough process concluded that *Everyday Math* was the best choice. Because of the success of our Everyday Math program and the research studies that continue to show its effectiveness, we believe that there is no reason to conduct a full "Explore" for elementary math.

The Elementary Math Advisory Committee has been doing a study of the third edition of *Everyday Math*. We are recommending that the district upgrade to the third edition rather than entering the Explore process for elementary mathematics. The reasons to consider an upgrade to the third edition are that:

- Our current 1998 edition is going out-of print
- The new teacher materials are much more usable
- The new student materials are cheaper and will require far less copying

- Small changes in the sequencing of the math better align the program to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE's).

Here are the steps we have taken so far.

- Teachers in all elementary buildings have previewed the third edition for grades K-5
- The Elementary Advisory Committee has reviewed the responses.
- The fifth grade Division Committee has reviewed the 3rd edition for division, and was pleased with the improvements. Many teachers will pilot the new materials related to division in January.
- Two Elementary Advisory Committee members will attend the *Everyday Math* "Sneak Preview" at Wayne RESA. Nov. 20.
- I will meet with the regional sales manager to discuss price proposals on Nov. 20.
- I have reviewed the *Everyday Math* / GLCE correlations. The Elementary Advisory Committee will review correlations to the GLCE's on Jan. 11.

Teacher training should be minimal, no more than one day per teacher, as the basic format of the program remains stable. We may be able to begin this spring, either with after school or released time sessions. We even may be able to accomplish some of this during the Summer Institute. Another possibility is using some time during the August 2007 professional development to provide one day per grade. (That would be the most economical plan.)

Students should be able to move seamlessly to the new edition, as the changes are mainly in the supporting materials and not in the actual flow of skills. I believe parents will also appreciate the new edition as some of the 1st edition "rough spots" have been smoothed out.

This would be the most economic year to do the upgrade, as the upgrade prices are at least 25% below the catalog price. Customarily we are only offered this discount in the first year of a new edition. Further, since the first edition is going out of print, we will struggle to fill our needs from the secondhand market. Based on the first quote, I estimate that the payback period would be less than 3 years. If we wait, the pay back period will be much longer, due to the higher costs of teacher and student materials in the initial year.