To: Board of Education
From: Eileen Depka, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services
Re: **February 14, 2012 Agenda Item #4B – 2012-2013 Middle School Schedule Update-Language Arts**

Executive Summary

Presentation: Mike Sereno and Robyn Martino, middle school principals, will present the middle school schedule designed for implementation in 2012-2013 and will answer questions about the schedule.

Background/Context: In order to respond to needs identified during the reading alignment process, the alignment team determined that additional time was needed for the teaching of Language Arts. In December, the BOE approved the addition of a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Communication Arts course for implementation during the 2012-2013 school year. The course provides additional instructional minutes for Language Arts to address the inclusion of Common Core State Standards and district achievement data. The advent of the new course necessitated a review of the middle school program of studies and the middle school bell schedule.

The expanded Language Arts block needs to address literature, informational text, writing, speaking, listening, and language. These areas are outlined in the new Common Core standards which clearly identify what should be taught at each grade level. An increase in time devoted to Language Arts was necessary to include the components under the Language Arts umbrella. The extension is intended to provide additional Language Arts time during which standards can be met.

The schedule was presented by Mike Sereno and discussed at the January 25, 2012, Board Curriculum Committee meeting.

Alternatives/Recommendation: None. The purpose of this item is to provide awareness as to how additional time was identified for the teaching of Language Arts.

Attachments:
Middle School Schedule w/ Communication Arts Course

MS Schedule w/ Communication Arts Course

Impact on Program of Studies: All students will participate in Communication Arts on alternating days during the current ACE (Academic Core Enrichment) period. Opposite the Communication Arts course, students will participate in Choices and Wellness for one semester and a traditional ACE course the other semester, reducing the overall number of ACE selections by 2 in each grade level. Due to the need for required courses during the current ACE period, several interventions will need to be delivered in during an alternative time period.

2012-13 ACE Schedule

6th Grade	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
A	Communication Arts			
B	Choice and Wellness		ACE 1	

7th Grade	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
A	Communication Arts			
B	Choice and Wellness		ACE 1	

8th Grade	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
A	Communication Arts			
B	ACE 1		ACE 2	

Current ACE Schedule

6th Grade	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Trans	C&W	ACE 1	ACE 2

7th Grade	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	C&W	ACE 1	ACE 2	ACE 3

8th Grade	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	ACE 1	ACE 2	ACE 3	ACE 4

Impact on MS Bell Schedule: STP (Student-Teacher Period) will be expanded to 34 minutes to provide adequate time for students to gain additional support in all coursework, including the addition of a core course. Interventions for struggling students may also be accessed at this time.

Hour 1	Hour 2	Hour 3	Hour 4	Lunch	Hour 5	STP	Hour 6	STP
7:18 - 8:07	8:11 - 8:59	9:03 - 9:51	9:55 - 10:43	10:47 - 11:17	11:21 - 12:09	12:13 - 12:47	12:51 - 1:39	1:43 - 2:31
49 Min	48 Min	48 Min	48 Min	30 Min	48 Min	34 Min	48 Min	48 Min