



## Informational Memo: Update on Math Program Evaluation

**TO:** School Board  
Superintendent Kocanda

**FROM:** Barry Rodgers, Director of Innovation, Teaching and Learning

September 10, 2016

### Background & Overview

At the 2016 January School Board meeting, the School Board approved a math program evaluation following a three year implementation of new math curriculum and materials. Starting in February 2016 and concluding this September, the District conducted a comprehensive math program evaluation to gather objective feedback on curriculum, instructional practices, materials and professional learning. Dr. Miriam Sherin, Northwestern University, and Mr. James Lynn, University of Illinois-Chicago, were chosen to conduct the evaluation based on their extensive experience both as researchers and practitioners.

The Evaluation consists of more than 40% of math classrooms at each building being observed. Curricular materials were reviewed in detail. Parent focus groups, administrator meetings, and school level teacher meetings were utilized to provide valuable feedback and information for the purposes of the evaluation.

The evaluation will provide the staff, administration, and the School Board with feedback regarding areas of strength, areas in need of improvement, and future recommendations.

In June, the evaluators requested additional observations at the Skokie School this fall. Those observations have been scheduled and completed. The evaluation is being finalized this month.

### Alignment with the District 36 Shared Vision

The Math Program Evaluation is aligned with the Shared Vision of our District:

- We seek to ensure that the learning environment, instruction, and materials of our math program *supports and challenges* all learners.
- We seek to ensure to provide an *innovative and experiential environment* to develop student's math knowledge, application, and disposition.

- We seek to ensure that our math program advances our goal of the *continual growth and achievement* of our students.

## **Next Steps**

Dr. Sherin and Mr. Lynn will submit the completed report to the School Board at a special meeting. Dr. Sherin and Mr. Lynn will present the findings to the members of the Winnetka community in multiple venues as follows:

- Debriefing with math facilitators: October 4
- Presentation to math teachers at each school: October 7 and 10
- School Board Meeting Presentation: October 10 at 7 pm
- Parent Informational Meeting: October 13 at 10 am

Following the informational sessions, administrators will develop a communication and evaluation response plan to be shared at the November 15 Board Meeting. In the spirit of continuous improvement, we look forward to learning from the program evaluation to help inform our practices in best serving the students of Winnetka.