

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting, June 2, 2009

FOR ACTION: Textbook Adoption-Greek Addition to World Language

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve the adoption of an additional textbook for World Language as follows:

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Title: *Athenaze: An Introduction to Ancient Greek Book*

ISBN: 9780-1951-49579

Cost: \$31.45

Copyright: 2003

Course: Greek I 2220

Background Data:

Although in the past, the study of ancient or “dead” languages has been foregone, in the past 20 years the field of Education has seen a resurgence of these languages. Previously, the study of these languages was thought to be antiquated and obtuse. However in an era of falling test scores, many educators believe that a strong foundation in Classical languages such as Latin and Ancient Greek hold the key to bettering our students’ understanding of such fundamentals as grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. The reason for this is because due to the inflected nature of these languages, one must possess some knowledge of English grammar and syntax in order to become proficient in either Latin or Ancient Greek.

The purpose of offering this class is to provide students with the opportunity to study an ancient language which will better their understanding of modern English. Through the study of Ancient Greek, students will better understand previously foreign concepts such as the subjunctive mood; direct and indirect objects; and the passive voice. The study of concepts such as these is essential not only to become proficient in Ancient Greek, but it is essential for the understanding of English, a language that students use everyday but without any real knowledge of its most fundamental principles. And as it has been previously shown, the understanding of English is vital for students to be able to communicate coherently and effectively, especially in today’s modern world where English is the language that reigns supreme.

In addition to strengthening skills in language, students will also gain an understanding of such areas as Ancient Greek history, culture, art, and mythology. This then provides students with an opportunity to better understand the origins of some of the social and political aspects of their own culture, since the influence of Classical culture is always present. Classical roots can often provide a sense of historical and cultural continuity and reinforce relationships in an ever-changing, multicultural society.