



## LRSP Status Report – June 2011

### 1.12 C&I Offer Second Language SR 2011

#### **Strategic Objective (SO):**

1.12 Both middle schools and the high school offer significant opportunities for coursework that includes exposure to a language other than English.

**Department/School:** Curriculum & Instruction

**Leader:** Marilyn King, Assistant Superintendent

#### **Team Members:**

Ken Gibson, BHS Assistant Principal; Sarah Hays, Curriculum Director; World Language CLT

#### **In a year, we hope to see the following progress on this strategic objective:**

Mega-issue discussion by the Board of Trustees.

Standing committee to research requirements and offerings.

Fully operative Curriculum Leadership Team.

#### **PROGRESS SUMMARY**

A mega-issue discussion on World Language was held by the Board of Trustees on September 27, 2010. Panel members for this Mega Issue discussion included:

Jenna Mosely, BHS Student, Mandarin Chinese and German

Jeremy Wilkes, BHS Student, German

Ken Gibson, BHS Assistant Principal

Lisa Werner, BHS German Teacher and Department Chair

Jan Krieger, CJMS Spanish Teacher

Sally Bell, SMS French Teacher

Tom Waldorf, BHS Spanish Teacher

Ritchie Boyd, Parent

Bridget Kevane, Department Chair at MSU

Marilyn King, Assistant Superintendent

The following philosophical questions were discussed:

- What does the Board want a student to know with regards to language study? To what level of “proficiency” should we aspire?
- How do we ensure world language exposure to all of our students prior to high school?
- What should the balance of culture vs. language be in the development of courses to increase language exposure for all students per the LRSP?
- What teacher qualifications are appropriate?
- What languages are important and should be offered?
- What age should language instruction begin?
- What amount of time should be spent studying languages?
- Where does business want us to be (global economy)?

- What delivery methods should be explored?

Due to budgetary constraints, it was decided that there would be no significant changes to the World Language program related to offerings. Thus, a standing committee to research requirements and offerings was not continued, although significant information was gathered in preparation for the mega-issue discussion.

The Montana Digital Academy is expanding course offerings and the District continues to explore collaborative opportunities with Montana State University.

The World Language CLT met several times during the 2010-11 school year. In addition, a group of teachers and administrators convened with representatives from MSU to discuss grant opportunities.