

Regular Board Meeting – April 21, 2009

SUBJECT: FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE AT OOJH**Overview: Family and Consumer Science at OOJH**

For the past eight years, our Family and Consumer Science program at Old Orchard Jr. High has used a rotating, computer-module system for the delivery of instruction. Students select six or seven modules to independently complete per grading period. Modules introduce students to a variety of topics, such as clothing care, interior design, home repair, meal planning, and child care. Some modules do have components that result in a tangible (hands-on) product, but most rely on direct computer application.

The software modules use an operating system which must be upgraded for the 2009-2010 school year. The company which supplies the modules will no longer be able to support our older programs. The cost to upgrade the modules is estimated to be \$20,000.

The value of upgrading the Family and Consumer Science modules in light of the desirability of a more hands-on curriculum is questionable. An option would be to refresh a more traditionally-designed program to offer a contemporary food preparation, nutrition, and “green” consumer science curriculum. This change would require us to dismantle the existing computer module configuration in the classroom and install four new instructional kitchens. Two new instructional kitchens were installed last summer to support the move from a nine-week to a twelve-week trimester grading period. The cost to reconfigure the room and add four more instructional kitchens is estimated to be \$40,000.

Conclusion

The administration recommends the revision of the Family and Consumer Science program effective with the 2009-2010 school year. Updates to instructional programs within the Fine and Applied Arts (Encore Program) at Old Orchard Junior High align with the recommendations of the 2003 Old Orchard Study Team and long-range school improvement plans. A contemporary, hands-on Family and Consumer Science program will be an engaging addition to the Encore rotation for students in grades six through eight, and will provide a practical foundation for students who might pursue the extensive Foods and Nutrition offerings at Niles North High School.