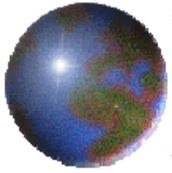


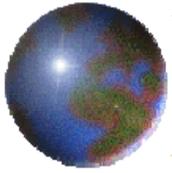
Mandarin Committee Report

February 9, 2010



Agenda

- ⊕ Committee Process
- ⊕ Neighboring Towns
- ⊕ Reasons for Mandarin
- ⊕ Survey Summary
- ⊕ Constraints- Caveats
- ⊕ Options
- ⊕ Recommendations



Committee Process

Participants:

Co-Chair:

Barbara Barnett, Foreign Language Program Administrator

Dr. Cindy Crimmin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

School Committee:

Ed Pierce

Teachers:

Lisa Taub

Vixen Peare

Dana Button

Wendy Tanahashi-Works

Community Members/Parents:

Janet Connell

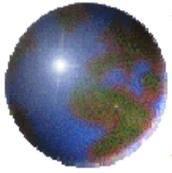
Chip Roth

Helen Chang

David Lo

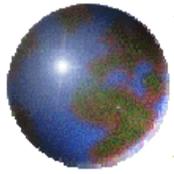
Nancy Zhang

Hong Gao



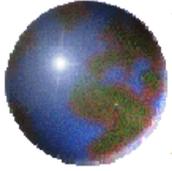
Committee Process Continued...

- Parent and Student Survey:
- Discussion Topics:
 - Academic Research
 - Research into Neighboring Towns
 - Consideration of Impact on Bedford
 - Proposal Options and Recommendations



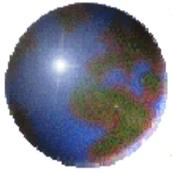
Neighboring Towns Offering Mandarin

Town	Program Grade Span	Age of Program	Proposed but not Implemented
Acton-Boxboro	7-HS	2 years	
Belmont	5-12	12 years	
Brookline	7-AP	10 years	
Burlington			X
Concord-Carlisle	7-12	6 years	
Lexington	6-12	8 years	
Marlborough	8-12	3 years	
Needham	9-12	6 years	
Newton	6-12	26 years	
Shrewsbury	6-12	5 years	
Swampscott	7-12	3 years	
Wellesley	7-8, HS 1, 2	2 years	
Westborough	9-12	3 years	
Weston	7-12	4 years	



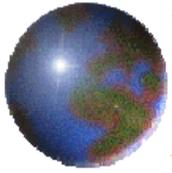
Reasons to Consider Mandarin

- Response to shifts in the Global Environment
- Cognition and General Language Development
- Language “transference”
- Global Awareness
- Offered locally in both public and private schools
- Perceived as offering an “advantage” to Bedford students.



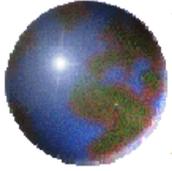
Survey Summary: Interest in Offering Mandarin

- Of 237 parent responses, 63.8% of respondents indicated an interest in offering a program. Of 362 high school students who answered this question, 41.7% indicated an interest in a Mandarin Program.
- 59.4% of these parents reported that they would consider a two year commitment to Mandarin for their children.
- 27.3% of the students indicated the possibility of Spanish and Mandarin; 15.2% Mandarin and French; 5.9% Mandarin and Latin.



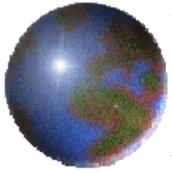
Survey Summary: Start Time

- 40.5% of parents preferred a start time in Grades 3-5, 13.1 % preferred a middle school start, and 15.3% preferred a high school start.
- 19% of BHS students preferred a start in Grades 3-5, 19.6% preferred middle school and 20.7 % preferred high school.



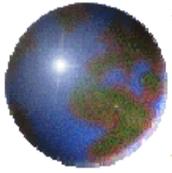
Constraints and Caveats

- Language difficulty and time on task
- Complexity of school schedules
- District and school size
- Staffing and curricular development
- Clarifying an approach for heritage speakers
- Unsustainable trends in non-Romance Languages
- Expense



Option I- Begin as an elective in Grade 6

- Offers a possible 6 year continuum with the potential for AP level by Grade 12.
- Corresponds to a natural transition point.
- Some research supports viability of acquiring tones at this grade level.
- Concern: Scheduling pressure



Option I: Projected Cost

⊕ Year 1:

20-25 Students

.12 FTE/1 class

\$6,836

Texts

\$1,625

Other

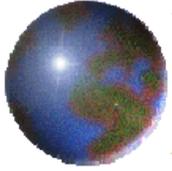
\$ 500

Curricular design

\$6,836

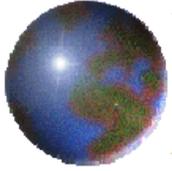
Total

\$15,797



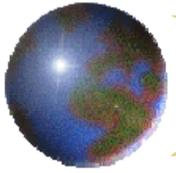
Option II

- ✦ Add Mandarin to Foreign Language classes already offered at Lane School.
- ✦ Cost: \$27,136
- ✦ Concern: Significant scheduling issues.



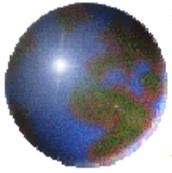
Option III:

- ✦ Replace one Foreign Language already offered at Lane.
- ✦ Cost: \$7,336
- ✦ Concern: Impact on the overall program.



Option IV: Begin as an elective at BHS

- Offers a possible 4 year continuum.
- Corresponds to a natural transition point.
- Concern: Scheduling pressure.



Option IV: Projected Cost

⊕ Year 1:

20-25 Students

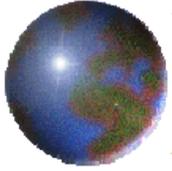
.20 FTE/1 class \$11,394

Texts \$1,300

Other \$500

Curricular design \$6,836

Total \$20,030



Committee Recommendation: Option I and/or Option IV

Begin at Grade 6 for a total first year cost of:

\$15,797

Begin at Grade 9 for a total first year cost of:

\$20,030

Begin at both Grades for a total first year cost
of:

\$35,827