Item Briefing Number: VII-A
Meeting Date: April 11, 2016
Subject: Shelburne Middle School Programming Changes
Policy or other reference: IIA - Instructional Materials
IIAA - Textbook Selection and Adoption

Background: For the past two years, Shelburne Middle School has had the opportunity to make some innovative changes at the 8th grade level that have allowed for increased opportunities for cross-curricular connections and problem-based learning. While this design has broadened educational opportunities, concerns have been expressed about requiring students to make elective choices.

Discussion: Administrators, teachers and staff, and parents at Shelburne Middle School have worked collaboratively in a year-long process of re-examining the school schedule to determine ways to maximize instruction and expand opportunities for students. The new schedule would expand the school day by 12-15 minutes, with students arriving by 7:25 and instruction beginning at 7:30. Benefits of this adjustment include:

- All 8th grade students will take a combination technology and physical science class. In this class, they will tackle real-world design problems, using creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration with others.
- All 8th grade students will have two elective slots.
- All 6th and 7th grade core classes would be 69 minutes.
- Adding these instructional minutes creates equitable instructional time with the elementary and high schools.

Suggested Motion: I move that the School Board approve the program changes for Shelburne Middle School beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, which requires extending the instructional day by 12-15 minutes.