Reinstatement of 9th grade Civics Requirement

The Board of Education has expressed interest in the reinstatement of 9th grade Civics (.5 credit) as a graduation requirement. This course was discontinued as a graduation requirement starting with the 2017-18 school year. It is possible to reinstate the course; following are points to consider:

* Would provide a deeper student understanding of government and the responsibilities of being a U.S. citizen when paired with the required 12th grade U.S. Government course.
* New resources may be necessary. We have 321 texts (enough for class sets), but approximately 10% of them may be damaged beyond repair. The texts we have are 2002 editions.
* AP Human Geography (proposed new 9th grade course) may be affected, if approved. AP Human Geography would provide an advanced social studies option at the 9th grade level. Students who enroll in AP Human Geography would be required to take an additional .5 social studies credit in order to meet graduation requirements.
* Possible addition of teacher FTE. High schools are currently using social studies teachers to support other programs, such as AVID, College and Career Center, College Prep, and ESL.
* Would create a required semester-long course to balance the required semester-long 9th grade health course.