



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

BOE Meeting Summary

October 8, 2009

Discussion/Presentations:

“NS District Presents The Youth Development Survey/Pride Report Results”



1. To begin the October 8th meeting, four students were recognized by the Board for being accepted by the All-State Music Association including Cosette Carlomusto (Junior), Nicholas Corda (Senior), Kathryn Mattner (Senior) and Joshua Epstein (Senior).
Congratulations to all!

2. Laura Orticelli, Director of PE, Health

& Recreation, presented the results of the Youth Development Survey (YDS)/Pride Report results. Highlights of the results include the following:

On a Positive Note:

- All our surveyed students have shown a continual and steady decrease in tobacco use since 1998. The percentage of North Shore School students using tobacco remains substantially lower than the County or NY State Average.
- Although reported cocaine use among North Shore students has been well below the County and New York State Averages since we began measuring in 1998, we have seen a significant decrease in the numbers of students reporting experimentation with this drug.
- Students report that they perceive each of our schools as very safe environments, conducive to learning.

Concerns:

- The level of alcohol use among high school students in our area remains a concern.
- Student responses indicated that a number of students of high school age do not perceive marijuana as a harmful substance.

The #1 reported place of occurrence for the use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs was “Someone else’s home on weekends” for grades 7-12. The #2 place for alcohol usage was “My home on weekends.”

Reported protective factors that lead to decreased substance use respectively are school and community opportunities for pro-social involvement, including athletics, the arts, clubs and youth groups. Risk factors that lead to increased substance use are family conflict, closely followed by parent attitudes favorable to anti-social behavior, and poor family management.

Action Plan:

- The district is committed to working with Nassau County as well as local organizations to create a community coalition to address the concerns raised by the survey results.
- We are currently involved in discussions with the health department as well as a range of experts to discuss and evaluate survey results and effective strategies to strengthen our Health Education programs
- The survey results will be shared with all students in grades 4-12.
- Professional development designed to heighten teacher awareness in identifying students at risk will be implemented.
- A series of guest speakers will be scheduled for parents, students and faculty.
- North Shore support staff are currently disseminating informational resources to parents and students, including how to recognize the signs and symptoms of substance use/abuse, and a range of community resources for support, help and treatment.

Trustees all agreed that everyone at the North Shore Schools remain fully committed to not only providing our students with the best education possible, but doing all we can to insure that they are equipped with the information, support and guidance necessary to make healthy choices. As a community, we remain committed to our obligation and responsibility to make sure that each and every student is well-known, valued and cared about.

Complete Youth Development Survey /Pride Report Results could be found on the North Shore Schools website at http://www.northshoreschools.org/district/board_of_education.htm.

- 3. Paul Pelech, Director of Technology, presented the Board with information regarding broadcasting board meetings by using an internet tool called a “Webinar.” This would allow community members to log on to their computers and join the meeting via their computers from home. Trustees requested Mr. Pelech to come back with a number of different scenarios including videotaping the BOE meetings and podcasting in the future.**

(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for October 8, 2009 at www.northshoreschools.org)