

Browning Public Schools  
**Board Agenda Request**  
Meeting To Be Held: 8/31/16



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**Recognition:**   ☐ Students                      ☐ Staff                      ☐ Parents  
**Information:**   ☐ Building Report           ☐ Old Business           ☐ Superintendent's Report  
**Action:**        ☐ Resignation                      ☐ Hiring                      ☐ Contract Service Agreements  
                    ☐ Travel Out-of-State           ☐ Travel In State           ☒ Approvals  
                    ☐ Termination                      ☐ Legal Matters           ☐ Other:  
                    This action request pertains to ☐ Elementary (only)   ☒ High School/District Wide

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**Date:**        8/18/16

**To:**           **John Rouse**  
                    Superintendent

**From:**       John Salois  
**Title:**        High School Principal

**Subject: Youth Awareness of Mental Health**

**Description:** Request approval for Youth Awareness of Mental Health to conduct research study consisting of five suicide prevention curriculum presentations in the fall semester and five more in the spring semester of AY 2016-17. The presentations will be completed through 45 minute presentations, 1 presentation per week over 5 weeks to all students in grades 9 and 10. The students will also complete pre and post surveys. Data from surveys will not identify individual students and all data from the surveys will be shared with the District. The research study will be approved by the Blackfeet Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to being implemented. Parent approval forms will be mailed to all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade student's parents prior to the start of the study. A community information session has also been planned for Septemebr 13, 2016 from 5:00-6:30pm.

As the leading state for suicide in the nation, and with suicide being the most common cause of death in Native American Montana youth, it is critical that appropriate youth suicide prevention programs be developed and tested in Montana. The Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program is a mental health resiliency and suicide prevention program targeted at adolescents that has shown significant impacts on suicide attempts and suicidal ideation. Additionally, the cultural adaptation of YAM to Native American youth of Montana makes it a promising program for addressing suicide prevention in our school.

The YAM project consists of two components: the YAM program itself, to be implemented as part of students' regular class curriculums, and the research study, which aims to discover the feasibility and acceptability of YAM for Montana and Texas schools

The requested motion is: The Browning Public School District #9 Board of Trustees approves the implementation of the Youth Awareness of Mental Health suicide prevention program for all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students during the 2016-17 SY, and the YAM suicide prevention research study, consisting of two surveys, one given before the suicide prevention program and one given after the program, pending approval of the research study by the Blackfeet Nation Institutional Review Board.

**Financial Impact: 0**

**Funding Source (Budget/grant, etc.):** Salaries, benefits, and payroll costs to be charged against budget for respective building/program/grant as applicable.

**Attachment(s):** none

**Approval:** Superintendent's Office/Finance/Personnel as applicable (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Board Action:** ☐ N/A (Info) ☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Tabled to: \_\_\_\_\_