

Oak Park District 97 - March 8, 2011 Board Meeting

Substance Abuse Middle School/5th Grade Forums

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Comments provided to the D97 Board by:

Kristine Raino-Ogden – Member, Citizens Committee -Chair, Middle School Action Committee
Jackie Zdziarski-West -- Julian PTO Member, Middle School Action Committee Member

Overview:

The Citizens' Council Subcommittee on Teen Alcohol and Substance Use was formed in February 2010 for the purpose of discussing/addressing teen alcohol and substance abuse at OPRF. The Middle School Action Committee was one of several Community Action Teams created to support the overall effort of substance abuse prevention and parent education.

District 97 Involvement & Next Steps:

Two events have been planned for District 97. One event is designed for current middle school parents of Brooks and Julian. The other event is designed for current 5th grade parents of students who will be entering the Middle Schools in Fall 2011. Both events are designed to be educational sessions regarding substance use by teens and pre-teens and to encourage parent involvement.

Middle School Forum – Monday, March 21, Brooks Middle School, 7-8:30 PM

Goal: To build awareness of teen alcohol and substance use and to encourage parents to engage in conversations with their kids.

Tentative Agenda

- Welcome and introduction from Dr. Al Roberts
- Myth & Reality slideshow
- OPPD representative to outline the problem from a Law Enforcement perspective
- Parent & Student testimonials
- John Williams -- Motivate parents to talk with their kids
- Q&A

Follow-up: an event that would give parents tips and ideas regarding how to talk with their kids

5th Grade Forum – Monday, April 11, 2011, Julian Middle School, 7-8:30 PM

Goal: To encourage parents to begin talking with their children early -- before they are presented with opportunities to partake in risky behaviors.

Tentative Agenda

- Welcome and introduction from Dr. Al Roberts
- Myth & Reality slideshow -- Setting the stage -- John Williams and Lisa Lowry
- Parent roundtable sessions

Possible Roundtable topics

- Parents communicating with parents regarding kids throughout Middle School
- The relationship parents would like their kids to have regarding alcohol and substance use
- How to talk with your kids about drugs
- Reasons why kids say "yes" to drugs
- Influence of older family members