

Cedar Hill Independent School District

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Date: December 10, 2012

Presented by: Mr. Horace Williams, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Abstinence Education Curriculum

Information Item

BOARD GOAL:

Expect, promote and support a safe and orderly environment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Cedar Hill ISD currently provides abstinence education in health classes (grades 6 – 12). There are required health classes at grades 6 and 8 and elective health in grades 9-12. The curriculum used is Big Decisions. There are no recommendations at this time to make any changes to the curriculum offered in health classes. The district now has the opportunity to partner with Skillful Living, a social service organization that provides abstinence education to students. Skillful Living would like to provide abstinence education to students in CHISD during after school hours. Students would only be allowed to participate in the program with active and informed parent consent. The after school program would be based on leadership and would include a leadership curriculum in addition to the sexual health and decision making instruction. This programming is grant funded.

The sexual health curriculum used by Skillful Living, Inc. is called Promoting Health Among Teens. This agenda item is being presented to request approval for the Promoting Health Among Teens to be provided in CHISD in addition to the already approved Big Decisions Curriculum. Per CHISD Policy EHAA(LEGAL), sexuality instruction methods must be approved by the school board, with the advice of the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). The instruction must: 1. Present abstinence as the preferred choice of behavior for unmarried persons of school age; 2. Devote more attention to abstinence than to any other behavior; 3. Emphasize that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, infection with HIV or AIDS, and the emotional trauma associated with adolescent sexual activity; 4. Direct adolescents to a standard of behavior in which abstinence before marriage is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and infection with HIV or AIDS; and 5. Teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates, if instruction on contraception and condoms is included in the curriculum.

As an abstinence only curriculum, the Promoting Health Among Teens Curriculum meets the current state criteria for sexual health instruction in

schools. The SHAC has voted and approved of the Promoting Health Among Teens curriculum provided to students who participate in the after school program provided by Skillful Living, Inc.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Cedar Hill Independent School District School Board approve the use of the Promoting Health Among Teens Sexual Health Instruction curriculum to be allowed for used in programs (outside of health classes) that teach sexual health to participating students.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:

None

POLICY AUTHORIZATION:

EHAA(LEGAL)

CONTACT PERSON (S):

Dr. Chanda McGhee, Director of Student Support and Community Services

FUNDING SOURCE:

N/A

ENCLOSURES:

See attachments:

1. Promoting Health Among Teens Project (Module overviews)
2. Skillful Living Center Website Description
3. Letter from Big Thought endorsing Skillful Living Center