

Minutes Bullying Committee Meeting
Sept 25, 2006

Is there a bullying problem at MSAD # 40? According to the results of last year's MYDAS/YSA survey of 6th through 12th graders, there is. The results of that survey are available on the web and may mean a separate survey by us is unnecessary. Results can be tailored to identify different needs.

The accuracy and thoroughness of those results were questioned. Parents may refuse to have their children take the survey. Students may refuse to take the whole survey, part of it or any question they choose at any time. One member who had proctored the survey mentioned that some questions were ambiguous and that proctors were not to interpret questions, but could only read them aloud. Proctors were instructed to sit at a distance from those taking part in the survey and not walk the aisles.

Pros and cons of "professional" programs were discussed.

Members reported complaints by students as to why they didn't complete the survey: ambiguous, too long, or too personal.

The idea of a community forum was considered to be a critical part of our anti-bullying program.

We reviewed the two student surveys that the sub-committee prepared. Typos and improvements were noted, including charting some of the answers. It was suggested that a computerized survey might find greater approval with the students and staff.

One suggestion for the community survey was a community forum. Another suggestion was that we piggy-back on the fall open houses at each school. Key ingredients in any successful survey of the community could be offerings that would draw the largest sample pool such as food, door prizes, child-care and dialogue. (There is some money available for food.)

The sub-committee was charged with developing a parent/community survey and rewriting the student survey incorporating the improvements and/or turning the hand-written version over to Halli for building the chart format.

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