

Final report for Bullying Awareness group

August 9, 2006

Members:

Leader: Karen Molenko

Participants: Michelle Coleburn, Kerry Downs, John Reese

Purpose: The purpose of this study group was five fold. We wanted to know what bullying in middle school looks like. We wanted to increase the awareness of “bullying and bullying groups” and that they do exist, and how to promote this awareness and minimize those behaviors. We also wanted to identify behaviors that stand out as a student needing help. We wanted to set up a system of safe havens for students who are bullied. We wanted to set up a schedule for implementing the program in our classrooms. We also needed to identify tools that will be used in implementing the program.

Study topics: *The first topic we discussed was creating a positive, safe environment within our classrooms.* The teachers involved have created a partnership with Gang Prevention of Broome County. We will have a person from Gang Prevention visiting our students in our classes, so we will be working with a curriculum and expert that they are providing. We will also have coordinating posters on the walls of our classrooms, so they see the message throughout the day.

The second topic is identifying and helping victims to equalize the power. We have set up a **PRE/POST SURVEY** of our students to discuss bullying and their awareness and involvement in bullying. Questions are related to being victims, bullies or bystanders. It also addresses through questioning, their ability to help stop the bullying. We took two surveys from two different sources and combined them to meet the needs of our students at East Middle. We are also making students aware of places to go, or professionals to see if they are being bullied. These people will help students manage the stress involved, and to become empowered to stand up to those bullies.

The third topic was helping bullies to monitor their own behavior. Again, we are using the **PRE/POST SURVEY** to help bullies understand their behaviors. We also are purchasing a book called Taking the Grrr out of Anger to help these students manage their feelings of angst.

The fourth topic is providing resources including literature, web sites, and personnel. Aside from the above mentioned resources, we are purchasing posters, Working Out Conflicts both the student and teacher editions, Cliques, Phonies, and Other Baloney and Bullies are a Pain in the Brain. We reviewed some videos and recommend these for the middle school: Character Ed. – Bullying, and Odd Girl Out. Posters for the class include: “Messages from Me to Me” (print shop), and “Rights and Responsibilities.” A booklet will be given to each teacher in the building called Preventing Classroom Bullying: What Teachers Can Do, by Jim Wright. Internet resources are also provided. See attached worksheet.

Our final topic was to create effective handouts, posters and announcements. See above. Also announcements will be periodically throughout the year regarding the topics in the booklet by Jim Wright.

NYS Standards addressed:

- 1) 11 Principles of Character Education
- 2) Title IV 21st century Schools, Part A Sections 4115(E) viii and xiii
- 3) Health Education Standards
- 4) Health and Social Education with the Middle Years Program at East

