

Important Facts:

- Contrary to a few media reports, female students were not forced to engage in any “lesbian kissing”.
- Contrary to a few media reports, male students were not told to carry condoms.
- Contrary to a few media reports, sexual activity among young adolescents was not condoned or promoted in any way.

This information had been shared with the media, but was not reported by some. We encourage all community members (and non-community members) to make informed judgments.

Additional Background:

During the week of April 9, eighth grade communication sessions were held at Linden Avenue Middle School. These sessions were designed by building leadership and the guidance department. The goals of these sessions were to encourage students to treat one another (and all marginalized groups) with more respect as well as to further develop an appreciation for personal dignity.

In response to parental concerns about these sessions Dr. Zahedi, the middle school principal, held an evening informational forum on April 16. This session was well attended and the subsequent feedback has been positive. In addition, the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, Paul Finch, addressed the community at the April 24 board meeting on the topic of these sessions. Here again, feedback from the community and students was overwhelmingly positive.