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Agenda - FYI_022603

2/26/03

7:00 PM Youth Survey (Survey)
7:01 PM Adult Survey (Survey)
7:10 PM How Does the GDC Work? (Categorizer)
7:20 PM FYI Youth Issues (Categorizer)
  - Review the nine Youth Issues
  - Refine the list
  - Prioritize as a group
7:35 PM FYI Youth Issues (Vote)
  - Prioritize the list of issues
7:45 PM Next Steps Discussion (Categorizer)
8:30 PM GDC Evaluation (Survey)
FYI Youth Issues (Categorizer)

Participant Instructions

USING KEY WORDS AND PHRASES GENERATE A LIST OF IDEAS.
1. Click on the "Add Item" icon in the upper left of the tool bar.
2. Engage the "CAPS LOCK".
3. Enter your idea. PLEASE ENTER ALL IDEAS IN CAPS TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND DISCUSS ELECTRONICALLY.
1. Double click on an IDEA that is similar to the one you wish to add or to comment on
2. Click off the "CAPS LOCK"
3. Enter your comment or similar idea on the comment page. Please use the tool bar at the bottom of the page to spell check, submit and close.
4. Please notice that the comment page tool bar allows you to move in the discussion to comments made previously or comments made on the next idea.
5. Please notice that each comment is given a number (#123) at the end of the comment. These #s appear in the order it is submitted; the number does not reflect a given participant or computer.
6. Please use the comment numbers in response to a specific comment.

FYI Youth Issues (Categorizer)

Substance Abuse

1. WIDE EXCEPTANCE

Kids get away with it too much at school and in other public places. (#23)
I disagree with #23. There are lots of consequences for getting caught using drugs and alcohol. (#28)
Why don't the kids who stand outside the south doors and smoke get caught? (#37)
Yea it seems like cops are out to get kids... especially athletes (#38)
I agree, 38. #45
The penalty is just right for alcohol and drugs, but kids see it as the "cool" thing, no matter the consequences (#46)
I disagree with 46. (#60)
Some of the consequences become bragging material (#64)
38 and 45, if you can't do the time, don't do the crime (#70)
It is not just "cool". It is something that gives kids a sense of maturity and freedom, and they love that thrill (#73)
There are always going to be the ones we can't reach, but the consequences are appropriate and have a good impact (#75)
#60, what would be the right penalty? (#81)
38 I disagree. There are many kids who get in trouble for things star athletes get away with. It goes both ways. (#89)
I think the reason kids do drugs is because its fun for them to be high or drunk (#105)
105, probably because they don't have anything else to do, and are too lazy to do anything else (#112)
Where do you get the money for this (#135?)
Work, allowance {#151}

2. WIDESPREAD USE

I think the perception of widespread usage is larger than actual usage. I think the number is around 30% for substance use, primarily pot. {#56}

Actually, the rates for underage alcohol use are a bit higher than 30%, which is considerably higher than any other substance. But meth is the fastest growing... {#104}

3. CAUSATION

A lot of kids think that is the only thing they can do to feel like they belong to something {#25}

I think kids think doing drugs is fun {#33}

25, I think you nailed it on the head. Many of the "tough" kids that flaunt rebellion are simply lonely and fearful {#53}

Go 33! Though getting caught isn't fun {#84}

33/84 - What are you saying? {#99}

33/84 - Of course it's fun and feels good at the time. How do you get across to kids about the negative long-term effects not being so fun, or the getting caught not being so fun? {#121}

I think most teens see it as if u do it in moderation; it's not bad for you {#133}

I also agree with that {#136}

Want to hear it bluntly? Guys drink to get girls drunk to feed their sexual interests, girls drink to appease guys and to watch them act stupid {#164}

4. I MEAN....WIDE ACCEPTANCE

5. SOLUTION?

Time is the only solution, kids today will drink regardless. When it is no longer a rebellious thrill, it will stop {#97}

I don’t think it has anything to do with rebellion. {#102}

More things to do?? {#109}

I disagree that boredom is the cause of mass teen drinking. {#113}

It is just the excuse they use. {#118}

People drink because they think that it is fun. {#134}

I consider myself fairly responsible, but I will admit drinking is fun {#140}

Teens would drink all of the time back 30 years ago...it's just that now it's been brought to the forefront...if it was bad then and bad now - how is it going to stop? {#147}

6. I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM SOMEONE HERE ABOUT THE ROLE THEY SEE ALCOHOL PLAYING IN THE PROBLEMS YOUTH ARE EXPERIENCING IN OUR COMMUNITY

I don't see it as a role. {#78}

It is an added complication to a teen's life. There is a lot a teen goes through to get away and go do something bad {#108}

Exactly, 108, it's a way to "solve problems"; there is so much pressure in high school {#115}

Good idea. Many of the youth are mirroring what they see in their role models when it comes to problem solving and living skills. Some of those kids do drugs/alcohol and it spreads to other kids who are either lost or lonely. {#116}
One of the problems with our community is that too many activities involve alcohol - especially sporting activities. Tailgating, pre-game parties, post-game parties. Too many adults don't realize that they are modeling negative behavior. It helps to create an environment conducive to drinking. {#117}

The kids that get away with it seem to be the ones that are happier now, but are going nowhere in life {#120}

People drink because they have nothing better to do on weekends {#127}
They could find something better to do, but are to lazy and feel that is the only way they can have a good time {#130}

127 What would it take to have kids think there is something better to do? {#132}

115 - Pressure from what? {#137}

I thought it was cool when I was high school and it landed me in rehab four times. I can tell you I made it out, but many of the "cool" people that did drugs and alcohol are still struggling with it. Some have died, or served time. And these were good kids/athletes who were well-liked at one time. {#138}

If you give a kid 10 million dollars, and say have fun, he's still probably going to drink {#142}

138, not everyone who does drugs experiences those consequences. Do you believe it is bad in moderation {#144}

True, 142 {#146}

127 people think there is nothing to do because they tried alcohol and drugs and everything else became boring. There is plenty to do. The problem is we live in a fast paced society where kids are using imagination and creativity less and less and are expecting external stimulation more and more. {#148}

144 The human body was never intended for the consumption of alcohol or other chemicals. It is not my place to judge. I can just share my experience. {#158}

144 Are you talking about casual use of drugs? There is no such thing. {#163}

Importance of Parental Guidance

1. I THINK OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS TO OFFER LOTS MORE PARENTAL HELP CLASSES.
2. WHAT ABOUT AN INITIATIVE TO SPARK PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT?
3. I DON'T THINK PARENTS APPRECIATE THE INFLUENCE THEY HAVE ON THEIR KIDS

Wow, so true {#52}

That may be true when kids are younger, but I think parents kid themselves about how much influence they have on teens {#95}

4. PARENTAL GUIDANCE IS THE MAINSTAY OF A HEALTHY STUDENT'S LIFE AND ATTITUDE. IT IS THE ONE CONSTANT THAT WILL DIRECT A STUDENT'S SUCCESS.

That is not always true - some parents push too hard, and the student rebels {#88}

Again, parents need to have some guidance about different parenting types and how they can change their reactions to create different outcomes. {#139}

5. IT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE AS A PARENT THAT TEACHERS ARE EXPECTED TO DO MORE THAN TEACH. THEY SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO INSTILL MORALS, ETHICS, INTEGRITY, ETC. THIS SHOULD BE DONE BY PARENTS, WHICH, I FEEL, IS NOT BEING DONE IN A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF HOMES ENVIRONMENTS.

I completely agree. I feel as a whole in this community parents have dropped the ball. However, as a teacher, you should instill morals into your students. They look up to you {#128}

Teen Pressure/Acceptance

1. FACTOR FOR MOST ITEMS LISTED
2. IDEAS FOR POSITIVE PEER PRESSURE

Teen Depression

1. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE TEACHERS TRAINED TO RECOGNIZE POSSIBLE DEPRESSION IN OUR STUDENTS.
   Many students feel lost and teachers either can't recognize or don't want to realize it {#58}
   I think parents have a big part of depression, both causing it and not being able to recognize it in their own kids. {#98}
   I agree number 98. But teachers see kids so much more than some parents. They too should know how to recognize the signs. {#150}

2. DOES THIS REFER TO MEDICAL DEPRESSION OR JUST FEELING BLUE?

3. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE PERSON IS NOT FAKING DEPRESSION?

Teen Sexuality

1. MY STUDENTS WERE TELLING ME THAT HOOKING UP FOR SEX WITH DIFFERENT PARTNERS ON DIFFERENT DAYS OF THE WEEKEND IS A COMMON ACTIVITY IN FARGO. WHY?
   What?? I certainly don't do that!!!!! {#61}
   I have never heard of that, maybe they were joking. {#68}
   Or maybe those students are an exception {#69}
   Maybe kids don't like to talk to adults about that kind of stuff {#72}
   I think a lot of kids do it to be accepted {#80}
   I don't believe that is true 61 {#92}
   80 Who would accept these kids? {#103}
   I agree with 80. If you had sex a lot, a lot of kids would not like you for it {#107}
   If you are going to do it, at least use protection {#114}
   This was in a sociology class and we are very free in our discussions {#156}

2. HOW MUCH PRESSURE DO STUDENTS ENCOUNTER
   Not a lot, only the pressure they put on themselves {#71}
   That's not true, 71. Their friends put a lot of pressure on them {#86}
   I agree, 71. {#87}
   What friends are u thinking of? Most people don't like to hear about their friend's sexual encounters. If u do, you're kind of sick {#122}
   Thank u 87 {#124}
   122 I'm sorry, but u don't know what you're talking about. After weekends guys always talk about what they did {#149}
   Those guys are sick {#153}
   That rarely happens at North {#154}
   Its not only guys 149 {#155}
   I have never experienced any pressure {#157}
   Those guys are really dumb; if they continue to do that they are not going to get with many girls anymore {#159}
   Sex doesn't happen at North?? {#160}
Discussing sex doesn't happen at North (#162)
Why not, it should be discussed (#165)
Especially at a public school (#167)

Eating Disorders

1. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH FALLS INTO THIS AREA?
2. WHAT SERVICES ADDRESS THIS ISSUE
3. CAUSED BY MASS MEDIA (MAGAZINES, TV, etc.)
   - It is caused by people who have poor self images; it is not necessarily inflicted by society (#62)
   - Sometimes they have poor self images because they are told that being skinny is the only way to be (#100)
   - The reason we have eating disorders is as complex as the human mind (#129)
   - We are inundated with images of perfect body/looks. An MTV generated, idealized portrayal of how people should look or act. There is very little room for individuality anymore and tons of pressure to conform. (#152)

Choices About College/Career

1. SERVICES PROVIDED
2. STUDENTS OVERWHELMED WITH DECISIONS
   - As a junior in high school, I personally have no idea what colleges are out there (#39)
   - That's fine - you have lots of time. You probably have no idea what you are going to do in 10 years (#51)
   - I'm a senior and I don't have any time!! Between trying to get money for scholarships, FAFSA, college visits, and schoolwork - I don't have any time. (#74)
   - 39. Go to a career center at your school if you have one. Use the internet. I just typed in Minnesota Universities and got a list of all colleges and universities in the state. Then you can go to the various home pages from those hyperlinks. (#82)
   - You will change majors many times and/or careers (#111)
3. SCIENCE CLASSES AND CAREER CENTER PROVIDE HELP (AT SOUTH HIGH)
4. THERE ARE MANY KIDS WHO DO NOT KNOW THEY ARE WORTHY OF ATTENDING COLLEGE
   - I agree. I know someone who did not have the determination to go to college because his parents didn't really care, and he had a lot going for him. Kids need to have parents who care, and also someone in the school who will step in to tell them that they can do anything they want to do (#79)
   - Conversely there are many students who have no idea of the academic skills they need for college (#106)

Fear of Physical/Mental Abuse

Nothing To Do On Weekends

1. WHAT IS THERE TO DO
   - Sit at home and play video games (#19)
   - Hang out at friend's houses (#24)
   - That is a good idea 19 (#26)
   - Go to a movie (#27)
   - There is a lot to do (#40)
What do you think you could do somewhere else? #{41}
Get interested in something #{42}
I think the FM area really needs to look at the diverse needs of youth. It is not realistic to believe they will be happy cooped up playing games all of the time. #{44}
I agree that there isn't much to do besides sit at someone's house or go to movies #{48}
Go to a party #{50}
Isn't the point of this to get kids to stay away from parties 50? #{55}
What's wrong with a party as long as nothing illegal goes on there? #{67}
Parties aren't all that bad 55 #{85}
I think there need to be more teens taking action instead of just expecting the parents to figure it out. (By the way – I am a teen) #{90}
They get negative connotations because of a few incidences #{91}
Taking action about what, 90? #{94}
What is the attraction of a party? Can that attraction occur in some other venue? #{123}
We have parties at our house every weekend. I'm a parent. Nothing bad is happening and I love it. I think there are tons of things to do and explore if people open themselves up to possibilities. Any experiences with your friends can be really good if you have the right attitude. There are concerts, many types of music, art exhibitions, plays, dances, book clubs, etc. #{126}
Teens are the only ones who know what they want. They need to take the initiative and figure out ideas. Parents are hard to communicate with sometimes. #{131}
123 Parties are a blast! That is why students go to them. School isn't the easiest anymore, we need to relax and this is how we do it. #{145}

2. I WISH I HAD TIME TO DO SOMETHING
What do you want to do that you can't now? #{76}
What are you so busy with? Maybe that is enough. Do you feel those things fulfill your social needs? #{96}
I wrote that I wished that I had time to do something because this goes to show that I can be busy enough (because there is enough to do on the weekends if you involve yourself in activities) #{110}
I don't have enough time on the weekends to do everything I want #{119}
That's exactly what I meant, #119 #{125}

3. I like to party
What do you mean by party? #{77}
Have a good time with friends and not worry about anything #{93}

4. THIS CONCERN SURPRISES ME. THERE NEVER SEEMS TO BE ANY "DOwNTIME" AT OUR HOUSE.
That's true. #{166}

5. WHERE OH WHERE HAS CREATIVITY GONE?
Exactly #{161}
FYI Youth Issues (Vote)

Voting Results

10-Point Scale (Allow bypass)

Number of ballot items: 9
Total number of voters (N): 17

Mean

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Next Steps Discussion (Categorizer)

Next Steps Discussion

WHAT/WHO/HOW

1. NEWSLETTER FOR TEENS
   - Definitely a waste of time and money...I do not think this should happen {#20}
   - Yeah. I agree 20 {#24}
   - I doubt teens would be inclined to read it {#25}
   - I’m a teen and I know I wouldn’t read it {#26}
   - Good call, nobody would read it or else they would just make fun of it....spend the money elsewhere {#28}
   - I think it would be a good idea, but I don’t think it would go over that well - not many kids would take the time to read it {#38}
   - So then, it isn’t really a good idea, 38. We shouldn’t waste time and money on it {#43}
   - I agree. It would be a waste. {#73}
   - What teens do you know that read a newsletter? {#79}
   - It’s called the Forum...it’s all we need...I do not believe it is necessary for a teen newsletter {#161}
   - Not all kids read the Forum {#192}

2. TEEN BOARDS/MENTORS
   - What does this involve? {#62}
   - Yeah I want to know, too. {#70}
   - Is the Cass County Youth Court covered under this topic? {#128}
   - Yay! Youth Court is fun! {#150}

Leisure and Recreation: Youth and adults agreed that more diverse leisure and recreation options could reduce the substance abuse problem.

1. WHERE CAN KIDS GO?

2. THERE IS ENOUGH TO DO IF YOU GET INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES. I THINK THAT THE IDEA OF "NOTHING TO DO" IS NOT THE REASON PEOPLE TRULY ABUSE SUBSTANCES
   - I agree. I stated before that many of the kids who make that complaint have already tried drugs/alcohol and enjoyed it. Well...then, not much else compares to a buzz, so everything else is boring. {#186}
   - I disagree with that comment. People who I hang out with can have fun either way - using alcohol or not. It just depends who you are associating yourself with {#261}
   - 186 I admit it was a generalization, but can you really say it is completely untrue? There are many kids who this applies to. {#313}

3. WHERE CAN KIDS GO?
   - Can’t there be a place to just hang out? {#318}

Leisure/Recreation: Next Steps-

1. TYPES OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES
   - Lacrosse - sponsored by the park district for teens/ {#30}
   - Badminton tournaments {#34}
Maybe a rugby team!!! That would be awesome!! {#35}
Broomball is always fun! {#36}
Billiards/another park district league. Lots of my friends said they would play {#37}
Air-soft tournaments. It's cheaper than paintball, and a lot more fun!!!! {#145}
Good idea!! {#175}

2. THERE ARE SOME ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE, BUT NEED TO BE MARKETED TO KIDS

Word of mouth is the best advertisement {#69}
How do you reach those kids who think it is not cool to become active in the community-sponsored activities? {#123}
What about {#149}

3. PARK BOARD INVOLVEMENT

Anybody heard of the Teen Action Committee?? It is really great!! Park Board is very awesome! {#22}
No, have not. They should advertise {#29}
It wasn't very advertised, there were only about 8 teens there, but they gave us pizza and pop and definitely listened to our ideas! {#47}
What do u guys talk about {#54}
Family time instead? Why does the city have to furnish "play time" for teenagers? Perhaps helping coordinate volunteer activities would be a better idea. {#66}
We talked about battle of the bands--the extreme jam and other fun activities for the whole city {#78}
Yes {#81}
I agree with 66 {#104}
I disagree with 66. Kids will volunteer if they think it will be fun, otherwise a lot of kids will turn to drugs or alcohol. "Play time" for teens is to discourage these activities and promote a healthy atmosphere {#124}
66 kids have the rest of their life to work, give them a break {#219}
Yea 219!!! {#226}
Definitely 219 {#231}

4. WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE

Billiards {#51}
Lacrosse {#53}
Rugby and broomball {#56}
More music {#58}
Bowling {#59}
All could be sponsored by the park district {#60}
Water polo {#68}
Don't these all exist, except lacrosse and water polo {#71}
Music isn't usually sponsored by the park board because bands choose to make money themselves, and what do you call battle of the bands? {#75}
Badminton {#80}
Rugby would be so awesome {#84}
80 I think we definitely need a city badminton tourney {#86}

Means volleyball {#87}

There is a coed high school volleyball league {#91}

I've never heard of rugby or broomball?? Or ping-pong?? They need to advertise way better then, because i am the rugby master {#92}

If they do exist they should tell kids about it {#93}

How about non-sports activities???? {#98}

Like what 98 {#103}

Ping pong AKA table tennis {#105}

We have ping pong {#108}

They need to put posters like all over the schools {#111}

These all exist, but not in Fargo {#112}

75 I wasn't excluding the battle of the bands. I said more music. I didn't say there wasn't any. As for the park district, I think this discussion is about innovation. There is no reason that as a community we couldn't start more musical events through the park district. Why should it be all about sports when some kids aren't interested in them? {#114}

Where??? When??? {#115}

Art, drama, etc... There are kids who don't like sports activities, I'm assuming??? {#117}

We have art and drama clubs in school {#122}

What about troll wood? They're all about drama and arts {#135}

How about a park board sponsored airsoft arena or course. it is basically a cheaper and safer version of paintball {#152}

(same as 152) me and my friends founded FASO or the Fargo airsoft organization, we are an informal group of 20 kids who go out and play airsoft on weekends, or all week in the summer (even in winter). We have a lot of fun and we have become a very tight group {#173}

Cool, can i join?? {#179}

Clubs just through school is not enough-that's the issue, we need activities on weekends {#182}

FASO is open to anyone with an airsoft gun and some safety glasses, we might even lend you equipment if you are nice {#209}

Sweet!! I'm in!! {#220}

5. HOW DO WE PROVIDE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL KIDS WHEN THEY HAVE EXCLUSIVE GROUPS?

They may have exclusive groups but many have similar interests {#63}

Exactly {#65}

Just put up posters, whoever wants to come will {#67?}

Organizing them would be the most difficult {#72}

63/65 but how do we avoid a certain activity from becoming a hangout for certain groups while others will avoid those groups? {#77}

We have had dances at south and most students don't come. Same with athletic events ands on...... {#90}

90 - Exactly, we need more school spirit {#97}

People don't want to do stuff if it isn't with their friends usually {#100}
I don’t think people wont go to them just because other people are there, i don’t think any kids including myself would have problem with that (#101)

School spirit is overrated (#106)

I agree with 97, the dances could be more fun-if more people went (#110)

How are you going to get more people to go 110 (#118)

There isn’t a perfect activity everyone agrees is fun so it is hard to get a lot of involvement (#121)

Everyone goes to north athletic events but now our administrators will not let us cheer because they say it is unsportsmanlike so no one wants to go now (#130)

Well, the north fan section does need to become a little more mature (#140)

Why do they try to stifle our team spirit (#141?)

How so? (#142)

Some of the things that Spartan fans have "cheered" were inappropriate (#148)

118 a lot of the kids that don’t go feel pressured into dating, or are wasting their time "abusing substances" so those things needed to be eliminated although that seems to be impossible (#156)

Like what? (#157)

What do the Spartans do that is so much more inappropriate than any other school? (#163)

Every school does it, i agree it's not mature, but would you rather have immature kids going to games, or immature kids out drinking (#172)

I agree with 163 and 172 (#174)

We have school spirit, we enjoy going to games and helping our team win, people at other schools don’t care they think they are too cool to go to sporting events (#176)

172 maybe those immature kids were drinking before the game (#196)

Let’s not make this a silly south/north debate okay? (#200)

I dunno 200 (#212)

Ok (#214)

And if they were, i bet they got caught. At least they're in a somewhat safer environment (#217)

217 How does that solve anything? (#222)

I think if there is a project in the community, like a youth center, than can be done by kids it should be, like South High drafting designing a youth center, construction classes build it, marketing classes run it. Something hands-on the kids can take with them later in life, something that is more real-world and adaptive (#240)

What would you do at this youth center (#291?)

Everyone says they want a youth center but no one says what they want to have there (#349)

6. MAYBE IF KIDS WERE INVOLVED IN SOME MORE DIFFICULT CLASSES (RATHER THAN 4 CLASSES A DAY) THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE TIME TO DO HOMEWORK ON THE WEEKENDS AND THEN HAVE FUN AFTER THAT

That’s true for some kids, but not that many, i don't think (#193)

I agree. More classes, but not harder. That would just drop their GPA and give them a worse chance to further themselves after high school (#205)

That’s not true at all. I don’t do my homework and I’m in easy classes. Harder classes would result in worse grades than normal for kids (#207)
I have 5 classes a day. I spend all my extra time at work or volunteering or at meetings or other random things. 5 classes is not a slacking schedule (#210)

Maybe the kids who do that still want to do something besides stress about school on the weekends. That comment seems rather assuming. (#211)

7. THERE ARE A LOT OF CHURCH GROUPS THAT OFFER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

There is a new thing called the Crossroads that sounds interesting (#252)

Church groups get a little too censored and confined, so many kids don't like them (#264)

That's because kids don't know how to act in that environment (#268)

I agree with 264. If we could have the same activities that some churches do, only not church related (#270)

But if you're comfortable in that environment, church activities can be a lot of fun (#272)

But a lot of kids aren't (#275)

I don't think it should matter who is sponsoring it, church, school, or whatever (#276)

I've gone to a friend's church where they had a lot of fun activities that weren't what you would call "churchy"...it was a very comfortable atmosphere (#279)

Exactly, and a lot of the students, who don't feel comfortable there, don't even try (#281)

But a lot of people don't know that, and if they don't go to church at all, or a church with the activities, then they still don't have anywhere to go (#282)

True (#285)

Isn't this whole thing about where kids do and do not feel comfortable or bored? We shouldn't exclude church activities for those reasons. (#294)

I agree (#317)

Churches can play an important role, but they have to be careful. I have a friend who went to get his kid out of a church-sponsored activity and they had all the kids in one room, talking to them and wouldn't let the kid leave!! (#326)

Education is key in dealing with many of the issues from substance abuse to eating disorders.

1. WHAT KIND OF PROGRAMS EXIST NOW?

Quite often the school district offers evening seminars/speakers that address topics that help parents parent. Maybe attendance by parents at the seminars should be mandatory. (#289)

2. EDUCATION WORKS FOR THE WILLING - WHAT ABOUT THE UNWILLING?

Is willing the same as motivated? Is it necessary to motivate? (#127)

You can't get a good education unless you are motivated...TRUST ME (#137)

Those who are unwilling, you cannot convince them if they don't care. Reaching the willing ones is hard enough, so why waste time and resources on the unwilling (#190)

190 Waste time? Maybe we need to explore why those kids struggle. I don't mean to criticize you personally, but that kind of attitude is exactly why some of those kids go through school unnoticed. Maybe they have no one at home encouraging them...or maybe they have someone at home actually discouraging them. They are worthwhile. (#258)

I agree with #258. (#299)

3. SEEMS THAT EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE AND IT'S EFFECTS -- IT'S MORE OF AN ISSUE TO CHANGE COMMUNITY NORMS, NOT MORE EDUCATION

I really agree with this statement. The information is available (#109)
I agree, kids just don't care about the effects \#119

I'm a kid and I know that everyone who drinks or gets high knows what they are doing to their bodies and they just don't care \#133

Any ideas on how to change attitudes \#133? \#144

I think that we could show them what they are doing to their bodies because every time a kid's dad in our grade shows kids what drugs and alcohol do to their bodies they all get grossed out by it and they might think twice before doing it again \#168

They may think twice, but I'll bet they still do it. You cannot scare kids into not doing drugs. You have to make them realize the importance not to. \#198

I think it all goes back to parenting and how much they are able to get away with - there's nothing the youth in the community can do to make their parents stricter. It seems like a lot of parents just don't care \#227

I know many people who say they do drugs because there parents force them to do so much and they frustrate their kids. They end up hating their parents and this makes them resort to drug use \#228

And yes, there are strict laws, but it doesn't seem like people get caught enough, people are drunk or high at school all the time and all the kids know it, don't the teachers? \#237

That's true 228 \#239

198 You are so right. Scare tactics do not work. \#255

4. HOW DO WE BRING OUR COMMUNITY INTO CONSENSUS? IT REMINDS ME OF A BIG CLICKY HIGH SCHOOL WITH PEOPLE ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR OWN GROUP/BACKYARD. WITHOUT COMMUNITY CONSENSUS WHAT CAN WE ACCOMPLISH?

5. THE BARRIERS TO REACHING KIDS ABOUT DANGERS

I think kids are not stupid. They know that some things are "unhealthy." The problem is that they do not see the big picture. There is somewhat of a belief in many of us that "I'll only do it for a while because it is fun" or, "It won't happen to me." We need to wake people up to the fact that they are not invincible. \#284

I agree 284 \#288

6. WHERE CAN KIDS GO?

Education: Next Steps

1. WE HAVE HEALTH CLASS IN NINTH GRADE....WE LEARN EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW....EVEN IF KIDS KNOW THE EFFECTS THEY STILL DO IT....I DON'T BELIEVE MORE EDUCATION WILL HELP

2. FEEDBACK TO THE SCHOOLS

??? \#64

I don't understand either \#74

I'm not sure, but I think that this means the schools have to have the feedback from these meetings. It is hard to expect changes in the schools if they don't know what they are expected to do or what needs to be done. \#324

3. TEEN COMMUNITY CLASSES

This is a good idea...the best of them...because I think a lot of teens would take advantage of this...and this would solve the problem of nothing to do on the weekends \#27

I've wanted to do a lot of the adult classes that Moorhead provides, but I don't want to go if it's just a bunch of adults \#31

I disagree with u, 27. I really don't think kids would attend these classes \#33
NDSU has programs to take night classes as a high school student and earn dual credit {#39}

What kind of classes would they be? {#40?}

I think that they should just send the adult classes (like the pamphlets they send to your house) to the schools {#44}

Psych, math, English {#46}

They have like yoga, and cooking, and art, and fun stuff {#50}

I think that if this is youth-driven... youth make the call regarding what kind of classes they want and then use the adults to help make it happen. There are so many good resources in this community that are so under utilized. {#55}

Why wouldn't teens want to take the wide variety of classes that they themselves would express interest in. We are talking about yoga, art, cooking, anything. {#57}

Fun classes would go over pretty well - kids don't need more pressure from other classes {#61}

Right on 50 {#88}

I know if kids were at an activity at like 10:00 on weekends they wouldn't drink as much {#99}

My friends were on a curling team, and they really got into it {#102}

Perhaps the tuition fee could be waived (underwritten by the city or corporate sponsors) making the classes open to all interested students. {#113}

Ye ha...I've heard about fun curling clubs too, 102 {#116}

That's true 99, but if it's that late, kids wouldn't go {#180}

4. IT MIGHT BE THAT WE NEED MORE COUNSELORS

5. TIME/RESOURCES/VOLUNTEERS

There is always time, always resources, and always volunteers. The real issue is commitment. {#292}

Honestly, everyone is so busy. How do we begin to get these set up? I say utilize those youth who are interested. I say get more of those "fringe" or "other" youth involved with the decision-making process. Teach and model the democratic process of reform. Let them experience reality {#293}

Education: Need for focus on "real world" preparation.

1. SOUTH HIGH HELD A CAREER DAY - IT GAVE REAL LIFE EXAMPLES

South High also has a career center to access information about colleges and careers. There are also classes which do some of this preparation. However, let's face it...we all learn by doing. It becomes very real once you are in it. Everyone goes down their own path, everyone makes mistakes and corrections...this is what life is {#96}

I think kids need more guidance such as this, but it seems like counselors don't have time, and you don't have time to go see them {#132}

When is there time for career development? {#171}

Career Day was a waste of time in my opinion {#195}

There is a lot of information out there for students. {#235}

2. THERE ARE CLASSES AT HIGH SCHOOL CALLED "LIVING ON YOUR OWN"

"Real World" Education: Next Steps

1. ALREADY A CLASS AT SOUTH HIGH CALLED "LIVING ON YOUR OWN"

Living on your own might be good, but is this the only thing we need? {#181}

2. PERHAPS THIS COULD TIE IN WITH THE TYPES OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES WHICH COULD BE OFFERED TO TEENS.
That would be awesome if we first of all had the teen classes...and then one of them would be about living on your own and stuff...I would definitely go to that, I think it would be a great help to a lot of us (#177)

3. WHAT ABOUT BUILDING AND ENCOURAGING YOUTH LEADERS?

There is lots of that - youth leadership, key club, FBLA, etc. - tons of leadership opportunities (#147)

Definitely #147....plus, you're a leader if you're a leader. It's just the way it is (#151)

There are many kids who don't participate in anything, or make destructive choices because they are on the outside. Sometimes it is up to kids to be mentors to each other. How do those clubs conduct outreach? (#153)

Kids just don't take advantage of these things (#155)

Outside of what? I don't agree with that (#159)

155 How to you do outreach then? If you are involved in those groups, do you approach other kids who are outside of your comfort zone and encourage them? (#162)

I don't think kids pay attention to the leadership examples that other students set, if that makes sense (#165)

While I think there are some good programs that are already out there... we should look at developing programs for those kids who are on the fringe. They don't really want to belong to a school-based groups, or SADD, or anything like that, but they still have some incredible contributions they would like to make. (#169)

159 On the outside of their cohorts. Are you saying there aren't kids who are cast aside and excluded? (#170)

169 I agree. On the fringe is the best way to put it. (#178)

Perhaps a leadership class should be a mandatory class at the high school level? (#245)

I don't think you can create leaders (#251)

I don’t think so, because you need to have followers if you are going to have leaders 245 (#253)

I think 251 is correct (#256)

I agree with mandatory participation but it wouldn’t be well received or understood. (#278)

I disagree with 251. I think you can train people to accept leadership roles. It might not seem natural to them, but the armed services have been doing it for years. (#290)

Health Care Needs

1. ANOREXIA

There are a lot of girls that I know who are anorexic (#197)

What is a lot (#202?)

There was a girl in the hallway one time talking like it was funny that she was anorexic (#206)

Do students recognize anorexia/bulimia in other students? (#208)

Do students think anorexia is cool? (#216)

Yes students do recognize it (#224)

I don’t think they think it is cool 216, but girls do it because they think they look better (#225)

I think most girls do it because they are insecure about their bodies... yes u can tell at school (#254)

I don't think that there is much you can do to prevent anorexia; they do it because it's in their heads; even if they are already thin (#257)
2. AS A TEACHER, I AM SO FRUSTRATED BY THE LACK OF RESPONSE FROM PARENTS, STUDENTS, and COUNSELORS WHEN I SUGGEST A STUDENT MAY BE DEPRESSED. ONE OF MY FORMER STUDENTS COMMITTED SUICIDE AND PEOPLE WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE HIS ISSUES!!!!

I am a student, and there are a lot of kids you can tell are depressed...it's a very sad issue...but I do not know how you would address it {#199}

I think the parent has to address it first of all, and if the adult just basically doesn't care, then a teacher just needs to address the kid up front and not go through a counselor {#229}

Sometimes parents may hinder the depressed initially. Councilors should be on high alert and call someone thought to be depressed to their office. Even if they are not truly depressed, just talking will make most situations better {#287}

A lot of parents either don't care or don't want to accept depression in their children {#296}

But the fact is that kids don't want to talk to their counselor, a person they barely know, about their problems {#305}

Are counselors even real counselors anymore, or do they just do academic stuff? Besides, we tend to put too much pressure on school personnel. It needs to start at home, with the parents. But in this sue-happy society we live in, school people almost have to cover their butts. If they are not satisfied with parental involvement with this matter, they can always call social services. {#321}

Talking to a counselor who doesn’t know u - that well may be easier to talk to, I think {#336}

Health Care: Next Steps

1. HEALTH RELATED COURSES FOR ALL STUDENTS?

We have to take health in the ninth grade...and we learn about everything...it's not like we're not informed...some kids just don't care about effects and such {#215}

2. EDUCATION OF EDUCATORS RE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Teachers and counselors need to have the skills for identifying mental health problems, and then have a place to easily refer kids, as well as a process that supports them in doing that {#218}

I feel I have the information and the training but not the support {#236}

Teachers are not doctors, how can they be expected to identify problems that experts might have difficulty identifying. {#260}

This is true 260, but we can have our suspicions and it would be nice if someone would take them seriously. This is every bit as serious as physical abuse, which teachers must report. {#274}

You don't need to be a doctor to see that someone is struggling. It doesn't mean the person has to be diagnosed or receive medication, but get them into a service/program that may be of help to them...{#295}

I agree 295. I bet if you asked me to find 5 kids in my school that I thought were depressed I could do it easily {#301}

3. TRAINING OF MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS IN THE COMMUNITY IN TREATING KIDS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Courts and Law Enforcement:

1. Aren't the youth courts swamped now?

No, sometimes they don’t have any cases...they are looking for adult volunteers though {#262}

Courts/Law Enforcement: Next Steps

1. YOUTH COURT....IS THIS WHAT THIS IS GETTING AT? I DON'T GET THIS TOPIC
I think youth court is a great idea. The issue is getting people involved. Those kids who have done it, enjoy it. There is not enough knowledge or incentive available for students to make a decision about this. (#204)

I've heard about this and think it is a great idea. (#233)

Youth court is awesome. I am a member, and it is very positive, but for some reason LSS is cutting funds (#242)

2. HOW ABOUT THE PARTY PATROL AND OTHER INITIATIVES FROM THE POLICE DEPT?

Do they still have the party patrol? (#265)

? (#297)

I think the party patrol is missing a lot of parties (#310)

3. MANDATORY YOUTH PARTICIPATION - ADULTS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE AT TIMES?

I don't think that would fly (#266)

Parental Guidance

1. DO PARENTS CHECK YOU WHEN YOU COME HOME LATE AT NIGHT?

My mom always waits up for me (#146)

My parents don't (#158)

Do you think they should 158? (#160)

Yes, always (#183)

If they trust you, which most parents should, they should have no reasons to (#185)

I agree with #183. Parents should always wait up until a child comes home. (#187)

You can trust a child and still wait up for him/her. This is done because of love, not mistrust. (#203)

Thanks 203…from a parent. (#213)

I don't think they should wait up for you if you come home late. They might worry that you were doing something you weren't supposed to be doing, when in fact you just stayed out later because you were having fun with your friends (#248)

I would feel bad if my parents didn't wait up for me (#271)

Why? (#280)

Because when they wait up, it shows they care (#286)

But you should trust that they care just like they should trust you that you aren't doing anything wrong (#298)

They trust that I don't do anything wrong...they just make sure I made it in safe. That the crazy man across the street didn't get me, or that I didn't get in a car accident, etc. (#340)

I agree that parents should wait up - especially if they don't trust their kids, but the problem is a lot of parents trust their kids when they can't be trusted (#352)

Parental Guidance: Next Steps

1. AWARENESS RAISING RE: PARENTS USE OF SUBSTANCES AND HOW THAT IMPACTS KIDS DECISION MAKING

2. TEACH PARENTS PARENTING SKILLS FOR PARENTING TEENS

Who/what/how (#259)

It seems like so many care but so few have the time to volunteer (#263)

Offer Adult Ed classes (#267)
NDSU Extension has a Parenting Resource Center. They do a lot of educational classes in Fargo and surrounding communities. (#277)

They do, and they are very good. However, those who need it most, rarely avail themselves of the opportunity (#314)

Will classes really help a lot of the parents who let their kids get away with substance abuse? (#315)

**How to move FYI forward?**

1. **MORE MEETINGS - LESS DISCUSSION AND MORE ACTION**
   - I've been to 2 meetings now. When is someone going to address what we have discussed? (#302)
   - When is something going to actually change? (#307)
   - No doubt (#345)
   - So true (#353)
   - What do you want to do about it 302? (#361)
   - I don't have the opportunity to change anything. (#365)

2. **CREATE A COMMITTEE TO TALK TO CITY LEADERS OR PARK BOARD LEADERS**

3. **WHAT ABOUT A TEEN CLASS WHICH WOULD GENERATE THE IDEAS, CREATE THE ACTION PLANS AND HELP TEENS THEMSELVES MOVE FORWARD WITH THEIR OWN IDEAS.**
   - That would work if you had highly motivated kids (#347)

4. **PRESENT THESE FINDINGS TO THE VARIOUS PUBLIC BOARDS AND ASK FOR ACTION**

5. **PERSONNALLY I BELIEVE THAT FOCUSING ON TEEN CLASSES CAN HELP ALL OF THE ISSUES MENTIONED...FOCUSING ON TEEN CLASSES MAY BE THE WAY TO GO**
   - Talk to the people who publish and organize the Moorhead pamphlets for the classes (#308)

6. **INVOLVE MORE STUDENTS BY TAKING THIS PROCESS INTO THE CLASSROOM FOR A DAY OR TWO**
   - Absolutely great idea! (#320)
   - Excellent idea (#322)
   - Good idea! (#331)

7. **FIRST STEP -- GET KIDS INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING**
   - I think the first step should be doing something. There is way too much talking and not enough action (#49)
   - Very true (#85)
   - Amen 49 (#95)
   - What do you suggest should be done? You need to start someplace. Where? (#107)
   - Start the leagues, or programs, or whatever you want (#125)
   - How can you start something without doing some planning for it? Where's the money going to come from? Who's going to do the work? (#129)
   - The community leaders should have enough information about what we as teenagers want, and now they should use it, or help us to use it to organize new clubs and events (#131)
   - We need youth leaders. Kids don't like listening to adults, but no one will be one because our generation does not have the same drive (#138)
   - If we actually had the opportunity, you'd be surprised at what we'd do (#154)
   - 154 What needs to be done to make those opportunities? (#164)
I'll organize, if somebody could just help me figure out places, times, and funds.....kids can do a lot more than you think. {#166}

166 I would love to help. {#194}

I think a lot of people would {#221}

131 When it comes to what teenagers want, nobody knows more than the teenagers. Problem is, most of the time they are not involved with any of the decision making processes. Adults always think they know what's best for kids, even though they never really ask. Kids need to be involved with planning. {#230}

I agree with you 131, and I am an adult. Our community operates in a top down way and that never feels good to those who are underneath someone. {#244}

221/166 Look at the sign-in sheet. There are people in this room who are very influential. We should contact some of them and do some planning. I bet they would totally help get something started. {#247}

This program should be started at the elementary level and continued throughout the entire education process. Children must feel as if they belong in order for them to become involved in activities. "Outsiders" probably won't utilize the opportunities you are discussing here unless they have been exposed to the activities at an early age. {#269}

These ideas can transcend to athletics. Every coach at South should go down to every lower level and get those kids fired up for playing football or baseball or whatever, so that by the time they get to South, they've improved and they are more involved in the activity. It will make the team perform better. That is what West Fargo does to build its football program {#328}

138 I agree that kids are very effective at reaching other kids. Do you think we should start some sort of new outreach? {#329}

To get to kids, you need to find the leader of a group and then reach out to him/her, then other kids will start to follow {#338}

8. HAVE CITY LEADERS ATTEND THE SAME CLASSES AS THE TEENS

I love this idea! {#323}

I have attended a school board meeting...and it was embarrassing. Most of the members talked just to talk and they sounded stupid. They have no idea what's going on in a teen's life...it's horrible...they definitely need to get in tune {#325}

Yeah, but going to classes with them won't help them understand a teen's life {#330}

You never know. It wouldn't hurt 330 {#333}

I love this comment 325. I feel they have no clue about any of the issues around schools and the students in them. They read research, maybe, but have no real connection to teen reality {#334}

Kids should council the board much as the President's cabinet advises him {#335}

How about having them attend something like this with the teens {#337}

Great idea 335 {#339}

How about the same with school administration? {#341}

They should already do this at the school {#342}

341 is on the right track {#343}

How about kids being involved in school board decisions? Administrative decisions? {#344}

341 Awesome. If they are going to talk the talk, they should walk the walk. Wooh {#346}

330 What would enable them to understand?? {#348}

Bingo {#350}
Should happen {#351}

How will adults know what kids are going through if nobody tells them? {#354}

I understand what you all are saying about adults not knowing what is going on in a kid's life, but you have to give them some credit. As adults (who were once teenagers), they know a little more about what certain choices will entail in the long run. I think adults need to do better job of listening, definitely, but they also need to be heard. {#355}

Certain students, both from inside and outside the student government, should be more empowered to make school decisions, because it is their school {#356}

346 Vice versa for kids to understand what and how the board/administration has to deal with {#357}

I agree that both sides need to be heard. {#358}

I still think the school board is wacko {#359}

I don't think there is any question that they are heard most of the time. It really is the kids who are not heard, or at least given credit for what they can accomplish {#360}

I know adults have had similar experiences, but this is today and some things may be different {#363}

357 Administrators have to get it through their melon that kids have valid input. {#364}

9. HAS ANYONE MENTIONED THE EXPENSES OF SOME ACTIVITIES? SOME FAMILIES HAVE NO DOUGH

The school pays for people who cannot afford the activity. All you have to do is talk to the coach or person in charge of the activity {#319}

Bruins helping Bruins {#327}

Exactly {#332}

Where there is a will there is a way. {#362}
GDC Evaluation (Survey)

Questions and Choices in Original Order

1. Did this session meet your expectations?

   Yes
   It did meet my expectations. I hope that I helped in some way. I hope that things can progress forward and I can see things start happening.
   Didn’t get into enough specifics
   Yes, I think we got a lot accomplished; I would have liked to have more time to just discuss
   It did that and more. I thought that this was going to be a boring two hours but this makes me want to do this again
   I didn’t have any expectations since I had no clue what I was going to be doing here
   I think that we got a lot accomplished, like turning down the idea of a newsletter, but I think we need to delve into this a little more...it went by fast
   Yes. I think it is an excellent medium for REAL communication.
   Very
   When are things going to happen? We started this meeting years ago.
   I liked it, and I think it generated some good awareness.
   Quickly
   I hope something good will come out of this meeting and some things will be changed
   It seemed to be a little too much. If we could deal with a couple of issues at one time I think it may be more productive
   I agree
   I was pleased with the opportunity to share my ideas. I didn't really know what to expect. I'm glad I accepted the invitation.
   I really like communicating through the computer. It is a great idea, but sometimes I feel like you can't get your point across like you would be able to in actual discussions
   I think it was worthwhile. Now follow-up is needed.
   Does the school board get paid? They shouldn't, teachers should be played more! Whoop!
   YEAHHHH!!!
   Yes, I think that copies of the results of these meetings should be sent to the school board, park board, and school administrators so they can know what we feel
   Actually, the school board does not get paid....
   Good
   Why is that good
   Yes why is that good?
   I think they should get paid
   Yeah and teachers shouldn’t get paid j/k :)}
2. What worked well for you in this session?

The discussion seemed much like the last time I was here. I think we should think about doing something now.

It was definitely like the same things as last year. The anonymous thing is nice.

I really enjoyed the format of the discussions

I liked that typing and everyone not knowing who is saying what. It makes me a lot more open to speak my mind (or rather type it)

Being able to "talk" freely.

This group could be a little more laid back but I think everyone had good ideas and I enjoyed my time here

Being anonymous makes it safer

I like the format

I like the computers, you can get a lot more down at one time and also the anonymity of it is good too

Yeah, no doubt

Being able to have instant access to information from the other participants in a civilized manner.

Perhaps having each participant cover one area at a time would be beneficial. I switched topics before I read the responses to my comments, so I "hopped" back and forth quite often.

3. What issues would you like to have discussed?

We discussed all that I would have wanted to

We discussed it all!

Making it happen

We addressed all issues I wanted to talk about

It was all pretty good, but I really liked the idea of the teen classes

What now. Is this just more talk? We really need to stop talking and start doing. Enough talk already. I’m ready for action

Let's narrow the list more and go from an initiative effort to an executing effort on some of these topics. The creators should be the constructors

It still doesn't replace the face-to-face stuff that needs to occur to make things happen.

Yeah, someone needs to take action on what we have discussed. I think any of us kids in this room would if we could, but we can't do it alone

I would like to see more work done in the area of involvement and participation.

Y'know, this activity itself should be offered to people in the community. It gives kids a way to express what is going on in their lives while getting feedback. Also it might give some parents some answers if their own kids refuse to communicate. Parents helping kids and kids helping parents - anonymously.

I think we get the point that action needs to be taken

Let's start with kids when they are very young. Values begin early. Changing attitudes and behavior is difficult with teenagers.

I agree