

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]
Sent: Monday, May 05, 2008 11:21 AM
To: 'chuth@volusia.k12.fl.us'
Subject: Teens4PureEnergy.com

Mr. Petrucciani—

I've spoken with Bill Toniowski about Teens4PureEnergy.com. He had Bonnie Thurman, coordinator of the grant for the abstinence-only program, call me last week. Bonnie provided me with exceptionally vague information about the program.

I understand that Joyce Shumaker, director of the Central Florida Pregnancy Center, wrote the grant for the Department of Health to receive federal funding to implement through another organization called Resources for Women. I asked Bonnie specifically whether Teens4PureEnergy had any religious affiliations. She said because the program is a private, non-profit organization, it is supported by non-denominational churches and others. I asked for clarification and whether there was a specific church involved. She said that the program is "under the umbrella of Resources for Women." She omitted that all of these organizations appear to operate under Cornerstone Ministries, an organization whose mission seems unequivocally evangelical Christian. If that is correct, it would seem entirely inappropriate, offensive, and discriminatory for Teens4PureEnergy.com to be teaching 7th and 8th graders anything at Hinson. If I'm incorrect about the organizational structure, please let me know. From what I understand from Bonnie, "coaches" or trainers who teach the children this program have no credentials in health, education, or any relevant area. She says that it is a "character based" program and kids are not taught anatomy or the mechanics of sex.

I've been advised that this program is being taught across-the-board in Volusia County schools. Does each school make its own determination whether it wants to use the program? If so, I request that Hinson immediately eliminate Teens4PureEnergy.com from its curriculum, as it 1) puts students at physical harm by teaching that condoms are ineffective, 2) discriminates against and stigmatizes non-heterosexual, and 3) is a program of Christian-based morality sermons cloaked as health education.

Can you help me with this?

Lynn

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 12:40 PM
To: 'Poniatowski, William J.'
Subject: RE: Meeting Dates and Time

Bill—

I would like to do whatever is required to have the program removed from Volusia County schools. You had mentioned that I could take this to the next level for review, and I'd like to do that. Please let me know what that process entails, if it is under your purview. If not, I would appreciate if you would direct me to the appropriate contact.

Thanks,
Lynn

From: Poniatowski, William J. [mailto:wponiato@volusia.k12.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 3:05 PM
To: Lynn Koller
Cc: Dupont, Allene; Cortes-Torrado, Emily; Petrucciani, Theodore E.; pureenergy2@bellsouth.net; Janet Reilly
Subject: The PURE ENERGY Program
Importance: High

Good Afternoon Ms. Koller.

Yesterday I met with my supervisor, Mrs. Allene Dupont, Director of K-12 Curriculum and School Improvement Services for the district. We discussed your concerns and came up with the following conclusions.

1. The PURE ENERGY program uses an Abstinence Based Education curriculum approved by the State of Florida, Department of Health.
2. The program is funded by a federal Title V grant which meets all the assurances regarding discrimination of any kind.
3. All agencies that apply for Title V grant funds for Abstinence based programs must meet written assurances of abstinence curriculum compliance with Federal A through H Criteria.
4. The Volusia County School Board has approved abstinence based only program instruction for our students.

I would like to invite you to serve on our district School Health Services Advisory Committee. The mission statement of this committee "is to assist in conducting a program of school health which all students and school communities will derive optimal educational benefits, through health promotion, awareness, and services." If you are interested you can contact Dr. Emily Cortes-Torrado at extension 20806.

Thank you.

William J. Poniatowski Jr.

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 7:17 PM

To: 'Poniatowski, William J.'

Cc: Margaret Smith (masmith1@volusia.k12.fl.us); 'Dupont, Allene'; 'Cortes-Torrado, Emily'; 'Petrucciani, Theodore E.'; 'pureenergy2@bellsouth.net'; 'Janet Reilly'

Subject: RE: The PURE ENERGY Program

Thank you, Bill. I would be happy to serve on the School Health Services Advisory Committee in an effort "to assist in conducting a program of school health which all students and school communities will derive optimal educational benefits, through health promotion, awareness, and services." The committee's stated goal seems directly opposed to the purpose and effect of the Pure Energy program in that "all students and school communities" do not "derive optimal educational benefits" from the program and, instead, are offered promotion of an ideology over health education, a purposeful obfuscation of relevant information related to human sexuality, and the denial of services beyond covert evangelism for students and parents who don't conform to its homogeneous characterization of a healthy sexual relationship. And that's really just a small part of the problem with Pure Energy. It appears to be totally ineffective in reducing teen pregnancy and transmission of STDs and is an egregious waste of taxpayer dollars.

I don't entirely understand the relevance of your four points outlined below. I understand that Pure Energy received a Title V grant, but that does not mean that administrators have delivered the program in accordance with the grant application, nor does it mean that it is a suitable program for Volusia County public schools. You advised me that Volusia County voluntarily participates in this program, and, on that basis, I am asking that it we decline its services henceforth, forever more, and into all eternity. I'm again asking you to please advise me of the procedure for a re-evaluation of this program in that effort, regardless of what Ms. Dupont and you concluded yesterday.

Pure Energy has apparently received a Title V grant for Volusia County from August 2005 through June 2008, "serving over 15,000 students," according to its grant application. The program offers students a total of five hours of rambling platitudes in the 7th grade and around two hours in the eighth grade. I do not have access to the total figure of federal funding that Pure Energy has received, but estimate that it's between \$700,000 and \$900,000. (Of course, you can correct me on the actual amount.) I'm sure you've collected assessment data and statistics on its effectiveness over those years, and I would like to review that data. Could you please provide me with that information? I have seen no Volusia

County statistics that would indicate that the Pure Energy program has been anything but a waste of pure energy, as well as a blight on Volusia County public schools.

I'll have to investigate further as to whether there's any correlation, but I do find it interesting that STDs among teenagers ages 15-19 have apparently dropped drastically more in Flagler County than Volusia County over the past five years. As you know, Flagler has recently declined the services of Pure Energy and, I believe, may be reviewing a comprehensive sex education program for implementation in its public schools. Comprehensive sex education programs that encourage abstinence (because the kids are in middle and high schools, not because their relationship falls outside of a traditional marriage), promote condom use for those who are sexually active, promote sexual communication skills, encourage fewer sexual partners, and teach about early identification and treatment of STDs have been proven effective in reducing teen pregnancy and STDs, whereas abstinence-until-marriage-programs have not. Is there a reason that we wouldn't want an effective program as opposed to an ineffective program?

To reiterate, I'd appreciate if you would 1) advise me of the procedure for re-evaluating the Pure Energy program in an effort to have it removed from Volusia County public schools, and 2) provide me with all of the assessment data on the Pure Energy program since it has been implemented in Volusia County.

Thank you,
Lynn

From: Poniatowski, William J. [mailto:wponiato@volusia.k12.fl.us]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2008 11:46 AM
To: Lynn Koller
Cc: Smith, Margaret A. (SUPERINTENDENT); Dupont, Allene; Cortes-Torrado, Emily; Petrucciani, Theodore E.; pureenergy2@bellsouth.net; Janet Reilly; pureenergy2@bellsouth.net
Subject: RE: The PURE ENERGY Program

Ms. Koller.

Sorry it has taken me this long to respond to your requests on this issue.

1). If and when the PURE ENERGY Program receives word that they received federal funding from the Community Based Abstinence Education Project, (CBAE) sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families, the district would take the proposal to Instructional Council for approval. If approved we would then take to the school board for final approval. From what I understand PURE ENERGY will receive notice of funding approval by June 30th.

2). I will contact Mrs. Thurman and request that she send you all of their data that they have collected on this program for this school year. The PURE ENERGY program conducts a pre and post survey and collects and analyzes the data as part of their grant requirements. The school district does not collect any data on this program. All data that is collected by the PURE ENERGY program is shared with the district.

3). Also, Dr. Torrado has included you as a member of our School Health Services Advisory Committee. We thank you for serving on this committee.

Thank you.
William J. Poniatowski Jr.

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2008 8:46 AM
To: 'Poniatowski, William J.'
Cc: 'Smith, Margaret A. (SUPERINTENDENT)'; 'Dupont, Allene'; 'Cortes-Torrado, Emily'; 'Petrucciani, Theodore E.'; 'pureenergy2@bellsouth.net'; 'Janet Reilly'; 'ccolwell@volusia.k12.fl.us'
Subject: RE: The PURE ENERGY Program

Bill--

Thank you for having Bonnie Thurman send me the assessment data for Pure Energy. I will contact her as well to find out when I might expect to receive that material. I'm surprised, though, that the Volusia County School District doesn't conduct its own assessment of the program's effectiveness, particularly given the extent of Pure Energy's access to students while using teachers with no credentials in their subject matter. Isn't it the school district responsible for maintaining accountability for the program rather than simply letting it police itself? Did Volusia County do a needs assessment before approving Pure Energy's program in the schools? I've received an enormous support from parents who find Pure Energy and this abstinence-only curriculum ridiculous and a disservice to the students, and they are asking these questions as well.

Finally, I'd like some clarification about your Item #1 below. From what you're saying, I understand that if Pure Energy does not receive the CBAE grant, Pure Energy will under no circumstances exist in Volusia County schools for 2008-09; if it is approved for the CBAE grant, Pure Energy must get approval from the Instructional Council and then the School Board. Does this mean that Volusia County has, unequivocally, no agreement with Pure Energy for the coming school year right now, either formal or informal?

Lynn

From: Poniatowski, William J. [mailto:wponiato@volusia.k12.fl.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2008 2:43 PM
To: Lynn Koller
Cc: Smith, Margaret A. (SUPERINTENDENT); Dupont, Allene; Cortes-Torrado, Emily; Petrucciani, Theodore E.; pureenergy2@bellsouth.net; Janet Reilly; Colwell, Chris J. (DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT)
Subject: RE: The PURE ENERGY Program

Ms. Koller.

With the Title V grant expiring at the end of this month there will be no agreement in place for the coming school year. The process I mentioned in my last email to you explained what would need to take place in order for the PURE ENERGY program to provide its services in the district. With this said they need to receive the grant funds from CBAE project first. Also, to answer your first question regarding a needs assessment the district reviews STD rates and pregnancy rates provided to us from the county health department to determine if a program like PURE ENERGY can be effective in reducing these rates. The school district reviews any and all programs to be presented by any outside agency to determine if the content aligns with our state standards and is appropriate for each grade level accordingly. With any grant funded by the feds or the state you are required to conduct your own evaluation to see that the program is effective. I am sure Ms.

Thurman can share this information with you. Thank you.

William J. Poniatowski Jr.

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 12:06 PM
To: 'Poniatowski, William J.'
Cc: 'Smith, Margaret A. (SUPERINTENDENT)'; 'Dupont, Allene'; 'Cortes-Torrado, Emily'; 'Petrucciani, Theodore E.'; 'pureenergy2@bellsouth.net'; 'Janet Reilly'; 'Colwell, Chris J. (DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT)'; 'jcont@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'djsmith@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'acwillia@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'cclankfo@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'sschmidt@volusia.k12.fl.us'
Subject: RE: The PURE ENERGY Program

Bill--

I don't understand your response to my questions about the district's assessment of Pure Energy's effectiveness. I asked on June 4 whether the school district is responsible for maintaining accountability for the program rather than simply letting it police itself? You responded that "with any grant funded by the feds or the state you are required to conduct your own evaluation to see that the program is effective. I am sure Ms. Thurman can share this information with you." Does the "you" refer to the district? If so, where is that evaluation? I emailed Ms. Thurman asking when and how I might receive her assessment data and am awaiting her response. (Attached is that email for your reference.) However, I cannot believe that the district would allow the "assessment" to consist only of her "surveys."

In your note below, you stated that the district reviewed pregnancy and STDs rates to determine whether a program like Pure Energy can be effective in reducing these rates. I would like to review that needs-assessment report and what the district analyzed to determine that Pure Energy would be effective. There must be some written documentation of this review. Could you send that to me, please? If it's voluminous and inconvenient to send, I can pick it up at the district offices.

In the April 2007 study commissioned by Congress, Mathematica did actually assess four abstinence-only programs and found that they were ineffective. (The report is attached for your review.) I understand that this is despite that these four programs were selected out of over 700 similar operations partially because of their likelihood to succeed. Even then, they failed. With no evidence to indicate otherwise, why are we even considering using Pure Energy again?

You've stated that you hear primarily positive feedback on the abstinence-only program, but I can assure you that a growing number of parents and other members of the community are extremely opposed to Pure Energy and abstinence-only sex education as a general policy. Let me give you an example of the general sentiment: As a result of discussing these issues, I found out that it was the practice at my daughter's school, Pine Trail Elementary, to have the students take virginity-until-marriage pledges after the one-hour talk on body changes and puberty. Of course, that is patently ludicrous, so I emailed the school administration and around 300 parents. I got immediate response from the parents, most of whom strongly objected to this practice, along with one - granted - who asked me to consider my eternal salvation. Yesterday, I found out that only the girls take the vow. I emailed the parents and school, and yesterday afternoon the policy of having any elementary school student take a virginity vow was rescinded county-wide. I've attached the emails for your reference.

I'm sending a copy of this email to the Volusia County School Board as well, because I understand they are currently evaluating this issue and may be amenable to a change of policy and programs. I'm asking that they commit to not using Pure Energy for the coming year regardless of Pure Energy's CBAE grant, and that they consider implementing a comprehensive sex education program based on information rather than moralistic tripe.

Lynn

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 10:36 AM
To: 'Colwell, Chris J. (DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT)'
Cc: 'Smith, Margaret A. (SUPERINTENDENT)'; 'Dupont, Allene'; 'Cortes-Torrado, Emily'; 'Petrucciani, Theodore E.'; 'Janet Reilly'; 'Colwell, Chris J. (DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT)'; 'Poniatowski, William J.'; 'jconte@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'djsmith@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'acwillia@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'cclankfo@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'sschmidt@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'mlsawyer@volusia.k12.fl.us'
Subject: Sex Education

Dr. Colwell---

I understand that you might currently be reviewing options for sex education curriculums. Please let me know if you would like examples of curriculum from other counties, an outline of the relevant Florida statutes and state requirements that highlights the flexibility counties have with regard to sex-ed, and/or a description of how other Florida counties have implemented programs that meet legal requirements and still provide students with medically-accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive information about sexuality. I'm sure that you have plenty of resources of your own, but I wanted to offer whatever research I can in an effort to insure that we extricate students from the puritanical vice of the zealous abstinence-only "educators."

I'd like to comment briefly on the Florida statutes. Of course, the Volusia County School District is governed by these statutes but might also consider challenging them when statutes flies in the face of all accepted medical evidence and knowledge, scientifically-verifiable research, and basic common sense in a way that detrimentally affects students and reflects poorly on Florida education. For example, Florida Statute Section 1003.46(2)(b) of the Education Code states, inexplicably, that instruction for students should "emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and other associated health problems." This is, of course, patently untrue. Abstinence is not a "certain" way to avoid HIV/AIDS. According to the CDC, immune deficiency syndrome can also be acquired by sharing needles or syringes, through blood transfusions, and before or during birth or through breast-feeding. As well, the virus has been acquired by health care workers and six dental patients through non-sexual contact. (source: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/transmission.htm>). I don't see how the Volusia County School Board can be obligated to rely on a statute based on a falsehood.

Obviously, HIV/AIDS is most often acquired through sexual contact, and it's extremely important that students know how to prevent spread of the disease. Unfortunately, despite the message of abstinence-only programs, not even marriage - defined in Florida as exclusively heterosexual - is a prophylactic against HIV/AIDS. Students need accurate, useful information about the transmission of disease, and if the Florida statutes preclude us providing students the truth, then Volusia should take the lead in changing that. Is that possible?

Also, while Florida statutes state that we must "teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage," this wouldn't seem to prevent Volusia County from teaching about any other type of relationship as well. You can teach the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage and also discuss a wide range of sexual orientations and how those gay and lesbian students might prevent the spread of STDs as well. Ironically, gay males are most stigmatized for the spread of HIV/AIDS, and yet the abstinence-only proponents refused to acknowledge their existence and provide gay male students with the information they need to prevent the spread of the disease. Just a sidebar ... The CDC also states that "there are no confirmed cases of female-to-female sexual transmission of HIV in the United States database." While I may be accused of promoting a homosexual agenda here, I must point out that it has been clear to many for years that neither gay nor lesbian sex results in pregnancy, unwanted or otherwise. (I can find statistics to satisfy the abstinence-only proponents, if necessary.) Heterosexual marriage is a fine institution for those who choose it, but it is harmful to students to consistently receive the message that it is the only type of healthy sexual relationship. We cannot discount the fact that some teenagers and their parents are not heterosexual, some teenagers will have sex long before marriage, and all teenagers deserve accurate information on health and sexuality from their schools.

I hear that you are working hard on this issue. As I said, please let me know if I can provide you with any information or help in that regard.

Lynn

From: Colwell, Chris J. (DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT) [<mailto:ccolwell@volusia.k12.fl.us>]

Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 12:13 PM

To: Lynn Koller

Cc: Smith, Margaret A. (SUPERINTENDENT); Dupont, Allene; Cortes-Torrado, Emily; Petrucciani, Theodore E.; Janet Reilly; Poniatowski, William J.; Conte, Judith G.(BRD-MBR); Smith, Diane J. (BRD-MBR); Williams, Alfred C. (BRD-MBR); Lankford, Candace C. (BRD-MBR); Schmidt, Stan (BRD-MBR); Sawyer, Mary L.

Subject: RE: Sex Education

Lynn,

Thank you for the email and offer of assistance. I do appreciate it. We will be reviewing the issues surrounding our sex education curriculum and I plan to make recommendations to the superintendent following a thorough review of our current programs as well as a review of other approved Florida curriculum. I will get back to you as we move through the process and do appreciate your input on this important topic.

Chris

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]

Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 8:25 AM

To: 'Colwell, Chris J. (DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT)'

Cc: 'Smith, Margaret A. (SUPERINTENDENT)'; 'Dupont, Allene'; 'Cortes-Torrado, Emily'; 'Petrucciani, Theodore E.'; 'Janet Reilly'; 'Colwell, Chris J. (DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT)'; 'Poniatowski, William J.'; 'jconte@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'djsmith@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'acwillia@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'cclankfo@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'sschmidt@volusia.k12.fl.us'; 'mlsawyer@volusia.k12.fl.us'

Subject: Health Education Curriculums in Other Places - Information

Chris—

For your reference, attached is an example of comprehensive health/sex education guidelines for Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. You might find this document useful. You should know that the opposition to the Montgomery County plan asserts that the school board is promoting "a homosexual agenda" (source:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/cgi-bin/mlk?http://www.mcpscurriculum.com>). As you've worked on this issue for Volusia, you may have heard similar allegations as well. The opposition to the Maryland policy states that the attached curriculum is flawed in that it:

1. Presents sexual variations, including homosexuality, in a morally neutral and values-free way;
2. Encourages adolescents to determine their sexual orientation;
3. Redefines family;
4. Lacks a strong abstinence message.

(Source: <http://www.petitiononline.com/mcpsboe/petition.html>)

I had to read these objections twice to determine whether most of the line items were objections or endorsements for the program. Also, I understand that Flagler County is evaluating More Health, Inc., based in Tampa, for its health education program. Janet Reilly may have more information on that program.

I would like to state, in case it's unclear from my deluge of appeals on this issue, that I believe that teaching abstinence from sex for teens in middle and high schools is a fine message. It just can't be the only message.

Lynn

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]

Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 3:45 PM

To: Smith, Diane J. (BRD-MBR); Williams, Alfred C. (BRD-MBR); Lankford, Candace C. (BRD-MBR); Schmidt, Stan (BRD-MBR); Conte, Judith G.(BRD-MBR)

Cc: ADKellett@Volusia.K12.fl.us

Subject: Pure Energy

To the School Board Members:

In her email to the School Board on June 5, Alisha Kellett says that she has taught several students who she knows were of a "different sexual orientation." She's not specific on how they're different or who they're different from, but I'm going to take a leap and assume that she is referring to gay students who are different than heterosexual students. I'd like to know how she entices those students to sign a commitment card stating that they will never have sex throughout their entire lives, barring a move to the Netherlands where they would be allowed to marry. I understand that students sign the commitment card after an activity with Oreos and Cheetos, and I strongly believe that Ms. Kellett may be improperly using processed food products in the classroom. I urge Deltona High School administrators to investigate.

Lynn Koller

Original email:

From: Kellett, Alisha D.

Sent: Thu 6/5/2008 4:57 PM

To: Conte, Judith G.(BRD-MBR); Smith, Diane J. (BRD-MBR); Williams, Alfred C.(BRD-MBR); Lankford, Candace C. (BRD-MBR); Schmidt, Stan (BRD-MBR)

Subject: Central FL Pregnancy Center/PurEnergy Program Support...

Good Afternoon School Board Members,

As a teacher and director of the Health Services Academy at Deltona High School, I am writing you in support of the PurEnergy program that all of my students have the opportunity to see each school year. This program has been a part of my Health Education and Health Science curriculum over the last several years and I would hate for one "bad apple" to spoil the opportunity for other kids to gain such valuable information in a safe, informative, and interactive presentation in a school environment.

The program is one that focuses on making good choices and with good choices are positive outcomes. The flip side is if a poor choice is made, a consequence will follow, and possibly take you astray for a short time, but you can always re-group and get back on the "right" path! This presentation, in no way, has a religious connotation, nor does it discriminate against sexual orientation.

Of course, we all say..."save sex until marriage", because we are an abstinence-based program; but as we know that is not the way this world is currently. There are those students who follow the "golden path" however a majority of our students are NOT receiving the information in a "home" environment therefore the questions are abundant in the classroom when discussing sexuality and the importance of waiting until you can make a mature and responsible decision. This is where the presentation by PurEnergy enters...I begin the lesson on teen sexuality and abstinence and then I schedule the PurEnergy group to present. In no way, shape, or form does the Central FL Pregnancy Center/PurEnergy demise any religious background or sexual orientation. Their message is plain and simple..."WAIT...BE RESPONSIBLE...AND MAKE WISE CHOICES"!

Every aspect of the program keeps the kids focused and entertained, from the "present" activity where hearts are "hurt", to the oreo/cheetos activity, and finally the "commitment cards"; this presentation offers our students an abundance of information that makes sense! It puts everything into perspective that we as educators are trying to portray in the classroom on a daily basis. When the kids see this come from a second party, most of the time the students wake up and question their "actions"! I cannot tell you the NUMEROUS students who have gained "valuable" information that will lead them to future success, just by being present in the room the day we had the presentation.

For those that have been offended by the presentations, what are they offended by? Have they sat in on a presentation, do they "know" what is taught, or are they going by "hear-say"? Unless they have sat in on the presentation, they have NO LEG TO STAND ON! I have had students of many religious backgrounds in my classes over the last several years as well as students who I "know" have different sexual orientation, but they have NEVER felt belittled, discriminated, or targeted by the information or activities presented! It is probably more of a "insecurity" of themselves and not a fault of the presentation!

As a student who grew up in Volusia County Schools (Deltona Lakes Elem, Deltona Middle, and Deltona High), attended a Volusia County University (Stetson), and chose a career in the Volusia County School District, it is my hope that you see the importance of this program, and what it offers "our" students. After all it is about what is BEST for "our" kids and what life lessons, good choices, and responsibility we can teach them in order to be successful. I could only wish that this program was around when I was in school, as it is one with compassion and power, supported by knowledge and facts!

Please continue to provide this opportunity to our students as we would be doing an injustice if it was removed from our classroom curriculum and approved presenters in Volusia County Schools!

Alisha Kellett
Deltona High School

From: Smith, Diane J. (BRD-MBR) [mailto:djsmith@volusia.k12.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 6:15 PM
To: Lynn Koller; Williams, Alfred C. (BRD-MBR); Lankford, Candace C. (BRD-MBR); Schmidt, Stan (BRD-MBR); Conte, Judith G.(BRD-MBR)
Cc: ADKellett@Volusia.K12.fl.us
Subject: RE: Pure Energy

Ms. Koller -

I have appreciated your correspondence regarding the Pure Energy program. I feel it will assist me in forming a well-researched decision should this be presented to the School Board.

I do have a problem with your statements regarding Ms. Kellett. Ms. Kellett is a valuable member of the Deltona High School team who continually puts the best interest of her students first. I take exception to your statements about her "enticing" students and "improperly using processed food products in the classroom". As director of the Deltona High Health Services Academy, Ms. Kellett is well aware of the effects of processed food products and encourages a healthy lifestyle among her students. Your request for an investigation leads me to the question: "Should our administrators also investigate the candy/snack incentives that go on in many classrooms in the district on a daily basis?" In my mind, this practice for enticing good behavior/performance is no different.

I believe we as School Board members need to hear from both sides of this issue in a professional, respectful manner.

Diane J. Smith

Volusia County School Board - District 5

From: Lynn Koller [mailto:lynn@cosmicscribbler.com]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 6:54 PM
To: Smith, Diane J. (BRD-MBR); Williams, Alfred C. (BRD-MBR); Lankford, Candace C. (BRD-MBR); Schmidt, Stan (BRD-MBR); Conte, Judith G.(BRD-MBR)
Subject: RE: Pure Energy

Yes, of course you're right, Diane. I admit that I should not have responded to Ms. Kellett's statements. I've received a great number of emails responding to my position on these very important issues, and many of the opposing viewpoints have been rather brutal - suggesting that I'm going to hell, for instance - and that I'm morally incapable of raising my own children. I think that it may have made me a little defensive. I do apologize. (I don't particularly approve of candy in the classroom, and in a strange coincidence, have written a booklet about it, but that's an issue for another day.)

Lynn

From: Smith, Diane J. (BRD-MBR) [mailto:djsmith@volusia.k12.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 7:06 PM
To: Lynn Koller; Williams, Alfred C. (BRD-MBR); Lankford, Candace C. (BRD-MBR); Schmidt, Stan (BRD-MBR); Conte, Judith G.(BRD-MBR)
Cc: Kellett, Alisha D.
Subject: RE: Pure Energy

Thanks for your quick response. I can only imagine the emails you've received. After our public hearings regarding school closings, nothing would surprise me.

We're definitely on the same page regarding candy in the classroom and I look forward to that conversation in the future.

Take care,
Diane