TOPIC: “Substances Surrounding our Kids”

Introductions were conducted.

It is important that parents/staff have this information, but the district does not take a stand for or against any substance that is legal in the State of Washington.

Rettai Bruni, Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator, showed a PowerPoint presentation on Substance Education. Data was reviewed regarding the usage of cigarettes, vaping, alcohol, and marijuana of our students from the results of the Healthy Youth Survey.

Officer Don William, with the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, was in attendance and answered questions on laws and regulations around liquor, cannabis, and tobacco/vaping products.

Be aware of changes in your kids, but don’t jump to conclusions that it is because of drugs or alcohol. There could be other reasons that changes are happening. You need to know your child, be involved with them, and have open communication so that you can discuss these topics.

Different terminology was discussed for drugs – you can go to the Urban Dictionary to find out what terms mean.

The schools are trying to do the best we can to prevent use in the buildings. We are trying to do this by increasing supervision, education on substances and their effects, and having consequences to actions. Drug assemblies was a recommendation to be done at the schools.

Next year: When staff come back in the Fall we will be discussing social and emotional issues as well as substances.

Parents would like to have more notifications of incidents that happen in schools. The district needs to do a better job at this.

Tobacco and vape products – must be 21 to buy these products, but they can possess these products from 18 to 21 years of age. The store would get in trouble for selling the product to underage people, but the minor would not get in trouble for trying to buy it.

Alcohol/tobacco/vape products – The State sends in undercover people to try and buy these products three times a year to each establishment.
Marijuana – It is still illegal, but the rules of the I-502 are concerned with responsible use and the rules it enforces are similar to those imposed to regulate alcohol consumption.