

Memo

To: Melrose School Committee
From: Joseph F. Casey
Date: October 5, 2011
Re: School/MAAV S.T.E.P. Grant

Name of Grant: S.T.E.P. (Services, Training, Education and Policies) to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking in Secondary Schools.

Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women

Amount: \$465,440 over 3 years

Grant start date: October 1, 2011

Grant end date: September 30, 2014

The Melrose Public Schools partnered with Rebecca Mooney (MAAV) in applying for a grant, which we have subsequently been awarded. This grant will be used to implement programs at the Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School and Melrose High School in partnership with the Melrose Police Department, the Melrose Alliance Against Violence - a domestic violence organization, and the Boston Rape Crisis Center - a sexual assault victim services provider. This grant dictates very clear and specific guidelines as to what the program must address and how funding must be spent. For example, the program must address teen dating violence. However, it cannot be used to address sexual harassment issues, or for mentoring programs.

The project targets approximately 2,000 students in grades 6-12, and also includes school personnel, parents and the community. It was developed in response to increasing rates of bullying, substance abuse and domestic violence in the community- all major risk factors for teen dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Services will also be targeted to groups at greatest risk of victimization including LGBTQI students and youth with disabilities.

The purpose of the project is to create a safe, respectful environment for all students and reduce the incidence of teen dating violence, sexual assault and stalking at the secondary level. The goals are to:

1. Develop a coordinated school and community response to addressing the issues;
2. Implement effective policies and procedures;
3. Institute awareness, education and prevention programs for students, staff, parents and the community;
4. Provide a range of intervention services for victims and students at-risk.

Please note that Ms. Mooney will be in attendance next Tuesday night to expand on this and to answer any questions you might have.