

From: Shern, David [shern@fmhi.usf.edu]
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2004 2:32 PM
To: +Superintendent's Office
Subject: Request to Appear before the School Board

Clayton,

As we discussed, I'm writing to formally request that I be included on the School Board agenda on November 9th. I would like to ask the Board to change its policy requiring that all surveys be conducted anonymously so that it specifically exempts health screenings like the Columbia University TeenScreen. This type of health and mental health screening uses a structured, self administered questionnaire to identify youth who are at risk for suicide. This policy change is prefatory to conducting a pilot screening program in a Pinellas High School. The pilot will be designed to help us determine the resource requirements for implementing a district wide program.

David L. Shern, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor
Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida 33612-3899
Voice - 813-974-1990
Fax - 813-974-4699
Email - shern@fmhi.usf.edu