

Brief timeline from a community member who helped “get the word out” about the Canby School District school board members movement toward providing contraceptives to students via the existing SBHC.



Canby parents responding to the proposal to dispense birth control pills and condoms to students 15 years of age and older without parental notification. The SBHC started 3 years ago. Part of the agreement was they would not dispense birth control pills/condoms.

1. February 2011, an article in Canby Herald
2. July 2011, an article in Canby Herald covering a school board meeting in which the SBHC wanted to start dispensing of condoms and birth control to students 15 years and older. Several of the school board members wanted to vote on the issue immediately and without parental notification.
3. Letter to the Editor the following week from community member in opposition to such a move.
4. Letter to the Editor in August regarding date of the next school board meeting and parents should speak up.
5. School Board meeting in August. Although the dispensing of condoms/birth control pills was not the agenda, about 25 concerned parents attended the meeting and let the board know why they were there.
6. Letter writing campaign to the Canby Herald against dispensing birth control pills/condoms. Encouraging parents to attend September school board meeting. Sent out emails encouraging parents/grandparents [and community members] to pass the email along to their friends in Canby. Contacted pastors and ministers in Canby notifying them of the meeting.
7. September school board meeting, approximately 100 concerned parents and grandparents [and community members] attended registering their objection to such a move.
8. Canby School sent out a survey for the parents and students to complete.
9. The [ultimate question that needs to be asked] question is; if the students support the dispensing of birth control pills and the parents do not...whose voice will be heard?
10. More letters
11. Sept. 12, 2011 School Board meeting

School board members discussed previous meeting regarding SBHC. They discussed at length, a student/parent survey. Eventually, a decision to add a few abstinence questions in it was made (which is typical...abstinence is usually an after-thought, given "lip-service", an "add-on"). Board mentioned later that survey was created/requested by "Youth Advisory Group" – HS students.

Community members spoke (maximum 5 minutes each). Each individual was clear, direct, passionate, respectful. Some shared: statistics, personal stories/connections to Canby SD, others offered alternatives, others stated potential long-term consequences to the school board, the district, kids, etc. if distribution of birth control/condoms took place.

Didn't see anger – rather a calm resolve and passion. Nice assortment of perspectives, ages, occupations, and voices.

12. Oct. 20, 2011 School Board Meeting

Recapped the SBHC Issue.

Student Advisory Group came and made request for administering a survey to both students and parents. HS counselor involved with this endeavor. Youth Advisory Group members made statements to board. Community members made public comments.

Some comments that stood out:

"Where are the parents, businesses, faith communities in this issue/request? I don't see that there is a major wave of requests for this to happen... instead we have teens requesting this/moving it along"

"What are you (School Board) going to do as a district if a girl gets pregnant? You're hanging yourself way out there...and it's extremely risky"

"School board should not step into the role of 'parent'"

"It isn't for lack of services...it's for convenience"

***All 7 school board members voted against the district's SBHC providing contraception; unanimous**