

School counselors more involved than ever in students' lives

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Wiggins, Glodowski of GHS discuss roles at Stakeholders meeting.

Gone are the days when students seek out counselors for ACT test or scholarship applications.

These days guidance counselors at Gothenburg Public Schools see kids for a myriad of reasons such as dealing with the breakup of a relationship or thoughts of suicide to dating violence and much more.

“We are there as advocates for the students,” said high school counselor Jerry Wiggins.

Interestingly, Wiggins said they have the most contact with students dealing with social issues around social events—like homecoming, coronation and prom—and the holidays.

Students with academic concerns often visit counselors at the beginning and end of the school year and when scholarships are due.

Wiggins and Pam Glodowski, who counsels students grades four through eight, spoke to 29 Stakeholders at a noon meeting Feb. 2 at Gothenburg Public Library.

Stakeholders are community members who are invited to meetings on different educational topics. They are then asked to share what they learn with at least three other people.

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Over the past few years, school counselors have become more involved in students' lives than ever before. This is due to a number of factors, including the increasing number of students with mental health issues, the need for students to have someone to talk to, and the fact that school counselors are now more visible on campus. In the past, school counselors were often seen as just people who gave out books or helped with homework. Now, they are seen as people who can help students with a wide range of problems, from academic issues to personal and social problems. This increased involvement is a positive development, as it allows school counselors to help students in a more meaningful way. However, it also means that school counselors are now facing a much larger workload than in the past. This can be a challenge, as it means that school counselors may not have as much time to spend with each individual student. Despite this, the increased involvement of school counselors is a necessary response to the needs of today's students.