

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 a safe space to talk, and the fact that school counselors are now more visible and accessible to students. In the past, school counselors were often seen as just a person in an office, but now they are more actively involved in the school community. They are providing support and guidance to students in a variety of ways, including through individual counseling, group counseling, and crisis intervention. This increased involvement is a positive sign for the future of school counseling.