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Connecticut school district implements Stay on Track program

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Region 15 Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Frank H. Sippy met with two Stay on Track instructors: Officer Candidate Alpa Ladani and Master Sergeant Daniel Morgan. (Photo provided by Connecticut National Guard Counterdrug)

MIDDLEBURY/SOUTHBURY, Conn. - The Region 15 Board of Education unanimously supported the implementation of the Stay on Track Program, a drug and alcohol awareness program, starting this fall for 6th graders.

Master Sgt. Daniel P. Morgan and Officer Candidate Alpa Ladani from the Connecticut National Guard gave a brief presentation to the Board of Education's Personnel, Policies, Curriculum committee about the program.

"Stay on Track is an educational program that not only helps fight the war on drugs, but helps youngsters make the proper decisions in life," said Morgan. "The lessons we teach deal with health education, good decision making, goal setting, communication and interpersonal skills, and the influence of the media on this age group. The program is designed to increase students' knowledge, drug-free attitudes and intentions to advocate drug resistance to peers."

Plymouth, Region 16, Wolcott, Naugatuck and Plainville have had the program in place for multiple years and each district is very pleased with it. The Region 15 middle schools plan to use some of the Physical Education classes for this program.

Mr. Anthony Salutari, Rochambeau Middle School Principal, and Mr. John Sieller, Memorial Middle School Principal, both fully support bringing this program to Region 15 and see it as an opportunity to provide their students with more health-related instruction.

"The addition of the National Guard Stay on Track program is going to make it possible to integrate lessons and activities focused on drug prevention and making food decisions with our existing Physical Education program. We are excited that this will be offered to all sixth graders at both middle schools during the 2010-11 school year," stated the middle school principals.

6/18/2010