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Petula Dvorak Metro Columnist

A temperance movement springs up to combat Fairfax County schools' zero-tolerance policy

By Petula Dvorak Washington Post Staff Writer Monday, February 21, 2011; 8:59 PM

If you're wondering whether zero-tolerance disciplinary policies are good for our schools and good for our kids, take a few minutes to listen to some of the parental buzz on a Fairfax County online forum:

GALLERY: A suspension, an unraveling and a suicide. Nick Stuban was a football player at W.T. Woodson High School whose story brought to light a discipline system that many Fairfax families call too lengthy, too rigid and too hostile.

THIS STORY: Va. teen's suicide prompts Md. review of disciplinary policies; Family of Fairfax teen suicide victim wants changes in school disciplinary policies; A temperance movement springs up to combat Fairfax County schools' zero-tolerance policy. View All Items in This Story

"Request a copy of your son's record asap," urges one poster on Fairfax Underground. "You have the right. Take that to an attorney."

"All appeals are denied," warns another. "Don't waste your time."

"Good luck - you are in for one of the worse experiences of you life - dealing with FFX County School Board."

"How horrible a system we have that we as parents need to train our kids not to speak to teachers, cops, or administrations. I've told my kids they have one thing to say - I want to speak to my parents, and to not write or sign anything"

The way the much-vaunted Fairfax County school system treats kids who make mistakes has become Topic A in the wake of the Jan. 20 suicide of Nick Stuban, 15, whose story was recounted in heartbreaking detail Sunday by

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