

# *Poplar School District*

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December 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Today in education our schools are expected to deal with a variety of issues, and there are none more important than child safety. As all educators know, children cannot learn if they live in a constant state of fear. Policies address a plethora of situations that deal with child safety in our schools, but we can never be everywhere in a child's life to protect them. This brings me to the purpose of this letter.

The other day one of my teachers made a request to bring in a young lady to provide a presentation that addresses child abuse, which is a growing problem in our country (or very under reported in the past). The presenter was Ms. Tara Walker Lyons, and what a journey this wonderful young lady had to share with our kids! I don't believe I have ever saw my students so transfixed as Ms. Lyons told of her experiences and struggles as a child abuse survivor.

I had a number of kids ask to speak to counselors at the end and one even during the presentation. Ms. Lyons' story was full of pain and passion and touched us all to our very core. Her journey is a lonely journey that so many of our kids are experiencing, and it's a journey that Ms. Lyons has had the courage to share for the good of others.

I would encourage any school leader to provide Ms. Lyons the opportunity to share her story with their student body. Many of our children are at risk in the very place they should feel the safest, their homes. Worst of all they have no idea how to deal with the abuse. Ms. Lyons' message provides the guidance and insight to help our kids deal with this worst of crimes.

I would be happy to provide answers to any questions concerning Ms. Lyons' presentation. I recommend this presentation without reservation.

Sincerely,

Dwain F. Haggard  
Poplar High School Principal