

## Cancer: Alums to be alerted

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ceed next," Badeau said. "Last night was the first time, as far as I know, that any board members had any part of the report in front of them."

Blanca Siuda of Elmira, who attended the meeting with her son, John, 14, and daughter, Sarah, 10, said she was "confident that they're being honest and upfront with us." John Siuda will be a freshman at Southside this fall, and his mother wanted to hear the state's findings for herself.

"I think that if there was something negative they found they'd tell us," Blanca Siuda said Wednesday night.

Southside senior Jacob L. Snyder, 17, went to the meeting with an open mind.

"I'm coming to this meeting to find out more, to find out if it's safe or not — the real facts," Snyder said Wednesday night. "All I want to know is how it (Southside) compares to the rest of the state."

Michael Tobin, 16, a Southside student who battled cancer a year ago, attended the meeting with his parents.

At the meeting, Tobin expressed skepticism at the number of cancer cases reported by the state. But that won't stop him from returning to school on Sept. 6.

"If the air's OK and the water's OK, I guess the school's OK," Tobin said.

Kieran E. McNaney, a 15-year-old entering his sophomore year at Southside, attended the meeting with his mother, Louisa G. McNaney.

McNaney's mother sensed her son's apprehension during the presentation of a wealth of information by state officials.

"He leaned over to me and whispered, 'Are you contemplating taking me out of school?'" Louisa McNaney said. "So, yeah, I think it's on his mind."

But they both feel that it is best for Kieran to stay at Southside.

"I'm in a lot of advanced classes, so I figure that if I stay there at Southside, where there's a lot of good teachers, I'll get into a college like Princeton or the University of Florida," Kieran McNaney said.

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