

District won't do cancer survey

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CONCERN on the
SOUTHSIDE

The Elmira school board decided Tuesday night not to sponsor a survey of former Southside High School students to find out how many have been diagnosed with cancer.

A New York State Health Department investigation of cancer cases among former students began last month. In the meantime, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has been conducting soil and air tests on school property and the former American LaFrance site next door, which recently underwent a hazardous waste cleanup.

At a recent public meeting about the possible high cancer rate among students, parents called for a survey so a more complete list of cancer cases

among former students could be compiled.

Administrators said Tuesday that such a survey would be expensive to develop, mail and process, and the school district could not legally guarantee confidentiality like the Chemung County Health Department could.

So school board members discussed the possibility of notifying former students about the investigation, encouraging those concerned to call the county Health Department.

But Assistant Superintendent Robert Gosden told the board that the district does not have up-to-date addresses for former students.

He recalled a past effort to

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