HAVING A VOICE | An introduction to local civics

Seen on Good Morning Today! News Item

Melanie M., 10 years old, was playing on playground equipment at her school in Plainsboro, Ohio a year and a half ago. The equipment was made of timbers bolted together. Melanie picked up a sliver in her left hand from the equipment, and her mother removed it, rinsed her hand, and allowed her to continue to play. Three days later, Melanie had a fever of 104 and her hand was swollen and purple. Her parents took her to the doctor and he cleaned the wound and sent her home with antibiotic ointment and oral antibiotics. Her hand didn’t improve, and two days later, her entire hand was swollen and clearly infected. Melanie’s fever was so high that she started having convulsions. Her parents took her to the emergency room and they sent her to Mayo Clinic. Mayo Clinic determined that she had picked up an antibiotic-resistant infection from the equipment and started a course of treatment that eventually turned into two months in the hospital, six surgeries, missing nearly an entire school year of school, and the loss two fingers on her left hand. Today, Melanie is a bright, happy 10 year old girl but is one year behind her classmates in school. The playground equipment has been replaced and Melanie has authored a children’s book about learning to get along when you’re disabled. That book is available in book stores this week.

(Note: the playground equipment in this story is similar to that proposed for the park site.)