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5136 - PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

A "personal communication device" ("PCD") is a device owned by the student and/or parent/guardian that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor. The following devices are examples of PCDs: computers, tablets (e.g., iPads or similar devices), electronic readers (e.g., e-readers, Kindle devices), cell phones, smart phones (e.g., iPhone, Android devices), telephone paging devices and/or other web-enabled devices of any type.

Elementary and Middle School

Elementary and Middle School students may possess a PCD on school property during school hours, provided that the PCD is WIFI-enabled and any cellular data access is disabled. Students may only access the Internet on a PCD through the District's filtered wireless local area network (WLAN). PCDs used in the classroom to access the District's WLAN shall be used for educational purposes only. Whether a PCD may be used in a particular classroom for a specific assignment or project is subject to the discretion of each teacher.

High School

Students may use PCDs before and after school, during their lunch break, in between classes as long as they do not create a distraction, disruption or otherwise interfere with the educational environment, during after school activities (e.g. extra-curricular activities) and at school-related functions. Use of PCDs at any other time is prohibited and they must be powered completely off, except for educational or instructional purposes (e.g., taking notes, recording a class lecture, writing papers) with the teacher's permission and supervision.

Students whose parent/guardian has chosen to provide a PCD rather than accepting a district-issued device may use their PCD throughout the school day for appropriate educational and/or instructional purposes, consistent with the Bring Your Own Device guidelines and this policy.

Students may not use PCDs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet web sites that are otherwise blocked to students at school. High school students may use PCDs while riding to and from school on a school bus or other vehicle provided by the Board or on a school bus or Board-provided vehicle during school-sponsored activities, at the discretion of the bus driver, classroom teacher and/or sponsor/advisor/coach. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.

During after school activities when directed by the administrator or sponsor, PCDs shall be powered completely off (not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.

Except as authorized by a teacher, administrator or IEP team, students are prohibited from using PCDs to capture, record or transmit the words or sounds (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity. Using a PCD to capture, record or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted. Students attending an extra-curricular activity game, contest or match as spectators may use cameras and/or electronic devices for photography/videography consistent with the building and/or activity's rules. PCDs, including but not limited to those that contain built-in cameras (i.e. devices that take still or motion pictures, whether in a digital or other format), may not be activated or utilized at any time in any school situation where a reasonable expectation of personal privacy exists. These locations and circumstances include, but are not limited to: locker rooms, classrooms, bathrooms shower facilities, swimming pool and/or any other areas where students or others may change clothes or be in any stage or degree of disrobing or changing

clothes. The Superintendent and Principal are authorized to determine other specific locations and situations where the use of a PCD is absolutely prohibited.

Students are expressly prohibited from using covert means to listen-in or make a recording (audio or video) of any meeting or activity at school. This includes placing recording devices, or other devices with one- or two-way audio communication technology (i.e., technology that allows a person off-site to listen to live conversations and sounds taking place in the location where the device is located), within a student's book bag, or on the student's person without express written consent of the Superintendent/designee. Any requests to place a recording device or other device with one- or two-way audio communication technology within a student's book bag or on a student's person shall be submitted, in writing, to the Principal. A district representative shall notify the parent(s) in writing, whether such request is denied or approved.

Students shall have no expectation of confidentiality with respect to their use of PCDs on school premises/property.

Students are prohibited from using a PCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior.

Students are also prohibited from using a PCD to capture, record and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using their PCDs to receive such information.

Possession and use of a PCD by a student is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the PCD. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement and/or child services if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g. child pornography or sexting). Discipline will be imposed on an escalating scale ranging from a warning to an expulsion based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or circumstances surrounding a particular violation. If the PCD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed, unless the violation involves potentially illegal activity, in which case the PCD may be turned over to law enforcement. Any PCD confiscated by District staff will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location in the building's central office until it is retrieved by the parent/guardian. PCDs in District custody will not be searched or otherwise tampered with unless school officials reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search will be conducted in accordance with Policy 5771 – Search and Seizure. A student may lose his/her privilege to bring a PCD to school or to use a PCD at school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis for a violation of this policy.

A person who discovers a student in possession of or using a PCD, recording device, or other device with one-or two-way audio communication technology in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to the building principal.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their PCDs. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to PCDs brought onto its property, or the unauthorized use of such devices.

Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office.

Students may use school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day with permission of the principal.

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