

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: February 20, 2012

AGENDA ITEM No. 12-02-(2)-19

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: Use of Electronic Devices During Board Meetings Policy #2131-Revised
1st Reading Approval

INFO. CONTACT: G. Patrick Rhodes PHONE: 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Use of Electronic Devices During Board Meetings Policy #2131

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is to revise the current Use of Electronic Devices During Board Meetings Policy #2131.

BACKGROUND: The language in the board's current Use of Electronic Devices During Board Meetings Policy has become outdated and needs revision. This policy was last approved on December 4, 2006.

Revisions to Policy #2131 are shown in bold type and strikethrough (see attached). These revisions have been recommended and reviewed by counsel.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the revised Use of Electronic Devices During Board Meetings Policy #2131 for 1st Reading Approval.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING BOARD MEETINGS

Date Reviewed/Approved: 12/04/2006 Policy Number: 2131

Rescinds Policy Number:

Issued:

Intent

This policy outlines:

- Use of electronic devices by Board Members, staff, media, and the general public during Board of Education meetings.
- Board Member access to Orange County Schools' (OCS) Wide Area Network.

The policy applies to Board of Education meetings held in Orange County Schools' facilities equipped with in-place, usable Internet Protocol networks such as in the Central Office Boardroom. Board of Education meetings held in other venues with in-place Internet connectivity, such as Hillsborough's Battle Courtroom, are also included in this policy.

Cellular telephones

All persons present at Board of Education meetings will place their cellular devices in silent and/or vibrate mode (no ringing of any kind). During meetings, these devices will be used only for emergency purposes and if used, the party called/calling will exit the meeting room for conversation. Text messaging by Board members and staff during meetings is not allowed.

Electronic and Internet enabled devices

The Board recognizes that the wealth of pertinent information on the Internet can provide benefits to discussion and decision making. To that end, Board Members will have access to the Internet through the Orange County Schools' intranet, as available. During Board of Education meetings, Board Members, staff, and others may use laptop computers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), or other web-enabled devices in the "silent" mode. Uses of any ad hoc connections, such as Bluetooth, Infrared Link, and instant messaging (IM) are not permissible as they could constitute a violation of Open Meeting laws if information is passed between members.

Board members will ensure that:

- Professional courtesy for each other, staff, and the public is paramount in the use of electronic devices.
- Uses of electronic devices do not distract from Board deliberations or interaction between Board Members.

There may be occasions to restrict use of electronic devices during Board meetings. In such a case, the Chairperson will call for a vote to restrict such use and a simple majority will prevail.

~~Use of electronic devices by Board members during Closed Sessions is allowed for informational items only and requires Board Approval.~~

Access and Authentication for Orange County Schools networks and devices

Board members will be provided Internet access, to comply with Acceptable Use standards as set forth in Orange County Board of Education Policy #7320 (Employee Internet Access and Electronic Mail), ~~with the exception that Board Members will not be given an email account by Orange County Schools.~~

Members are expected to fully abide with all Internet provisions of the Board of Education Policy # 7320, ~~and must sign the "Board Member Internet Agreement" attached hereto before access is permitted.~~

**USE OF ELECTRONIC
DEVICES DURING BOARD
MEETINGS**

Date Reviewed/Approved:

Policy Number: 2131

Rescinds Policy Number:

Issued: 12/06/2004

Orange County Schools
Hillsborough, North Carolina

School Board Member Internet and Use of Electronic Devices During Board Meetings Agreement

Name (please print) _____

I have read the Orange County School System Employee Internet Access and Electronic Mail Policy and Use of Electronic Devices During Board Meetings Policy. I agree to follow the rules contained in these policies. I understand that if I violate the rules, I will face disciplinary action to be determined by the Board. Actions may include revocation of privileges allowed through these policies.

I hereby release the school system, its personnel, and any institutions with which it is affiliated, from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my use of, or inability to use, the school system network, including, but not limited to claims that may arise from the unauthorized use of the network to purchase products or services.

Signature _____ Date _____

The signature above will be an ongoing agreement during the Board member's term of office as a member of the Orange County School Board of Education.