

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Newbury Library Media Center

Personal Device Subcommittee Meeting

October 30, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED 11.13.24

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Ms. Crone (N), Superintendent Steven K. LePage, HS Principal Gary Franklin, and MS Principal Ryan Cornelius. Teachers: Mr. Dan Wilbur, MS Social Studies; Ms. Jennifer Yanosky, MS Math; Ms. Kim Pershmann, HS English Department Chair; Mr. Jacob Green, HS Science. Mr. John Farrell, Ag Ed Parents: Ms. Rosalie Butler, Ms. Gina Fleming, Mr. William Wesley. Students: Jamison Chiron, Delilah Halt, Owen Langer, Amaya Washington,

Superintendent LePage began the meeting by thanking everyone for being present and for their continued involvement in the subcommittee for Personal Electronic Devices. He was then joined by Ms. Molly Sexton Read who requested everyone be split into 3 groups, each group consisting of administration, teachers, students, parents, and a Board of Education representative. The groups were provided with a copy of the results of a survey that was sent out to gather input from the student body, staff, as well as families in regards to the Personal Electronic Device Policy. Each group also received a summary of three options; these included : 1. making no changes to the current policy, 2. amending the current policy to include the requirement that devices be placed in a designated holder within the classroom and remain that holder until the end of the instructional period and 3. the purchase of Yonder pouches. Discussion about the results and ideas were shared amongst each individual group.

After a brief period of discussion, each group shared their responses with the whole group.

Some of the major key points included:

- The definition of the rules for HS and MS as the rules are currently different-can HS use their devices in MS hallways?
- Staff and students both acknowledged that bathroom trips during each class period are being utilized for cell phone use during educational blocks,
- Whether the policy only includes handheld devices such as cell phones or if Apple watches, headphones, etc, are included as well.
- Discuss the timing of the implementation of any changes, whether they should be introduced at the beginning of a school year instead of trying to transition midyear.
- All groups indicated that “choice #2” was their preference

Based on the feedback, Superintendent LePage will draft a proposed policy to reflect the support for extending the current policy to include the prohibition of phone use during the entirety of educational periods, with phones being placed in a designated holder within each classroom. He will share this draft policy with the subcommittee for review.

Superintendent LePage and Ms. Molly Sexton Read thanked everyone for their input and time and ended the meeting at 7:07pm.

Respectfully
Submitted,

Emily Vacila
Board Clerk