

PCSD 25 CELL PHONE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 5, 2025



Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Tonya Wilkes – Director	Ellen Laggis – Administrator
AJ Watson – Director (<i>absent</i>)	Lyndsey Matthews - Teacher
Susan Pettit – Director	Mayor Blad – Comm. Member
Courtney Fisher – Director (<i>absent</i>)	Maribel Mendez - Teacher
Raymond Knoff – Board Member	Steven Morton - Administrator
Amanda Prather – Parent	Jodi Prestwich - Administrator
Aubrey Eldredge – Teacher	Amber Tews - Parent
Darcy Brockman – Parent	Lauren Dalton - Parent
Holly Lacey – Administrator	Megan Furniss – Board Member (<i>absent</i>)
Tara Jensen - Clerk	

Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Wilkes welcomed the committee and thanked everyone for being here.

Overview of Meeting Goals, Norms and Objectives

- Review, discuss, evaluate Policy 8506 – Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices.
- Balance the educational benefits of technology with the potential disruptions caused by unrestricted phone use.
- Create a safe and conducive learning environment while addressing the diverse needs of students, teachers and parents.
- Support learning while promoting student well-being and safety

Discuss Proposed Changes to Policy and/or Procedure

- Discuss clear policy objectives
- Discuss limitations and permitted uses
- Discuss plans for accommodations and safety
- Identify clear expectations surrounding device storage, guidelines and procedures
- Discuss discipline procedures

Ms. Wilkes stated that at the last meeting the committee looked at other district's policies and came up with what they liked and wrote those on sticky notes. She said she took all of that feedback and created a policy and procedure and broke those up into sections. She said she would like the committee to look at these sections in groups of two to three and give feedback and input on what they like or want to change. She stated on the agenda the committee has went through all of the key components except the last part of the discussion of policy along with creating and adjusting.

She broke the groups out as follows:

Group 1 - Mayor Blad, Sue Pettit and Lyndsey Mathews to cover - State of our Why and Definitions.

Group 2 – Ellen Laggis and Lauren Dalton to cover - Policy and Inappropriate use of cell phone added language.

Group 3 – Aubrey Eldredge, Amanda Prather and Jodi Prestwich to cover - Protection and Expectations for each group.

Group 4 – Darcy Brockman, Holly Lacey and Amber Tews to cover - Procedures and Discipline Procedure for Electronic Communication Device Policy Violations.

Group 5 – Maribel Mendez, Steve Morton and Raymond Knoff to cover - Extensions for Students with IEPs, 504 Plans and Health Plans as well as Emergency Situations.

Ms. Wilkes gave the groups ten minutes to look over and discuss their sections. Ms. Wilkes asked each group to share out dialogue of what they felt needed to be changed as well as what they liked.

Group 1 – Ms. Pettit stated as they were looking at the “why” they discussed whether to put the words “with mounting evidence” but decided it should be left and if parents/guardians have a question of what that is we could provide the evidence to them. Ms. Prather asked if there can be an FAQ to the policy and Ms. Pettit said it can be a reference for parents that we post on the website but will not be part of the policy itself. Ms. Pettit said under definitions under personal electronic device they would like to add the word ear buds into the policy because they are the biggest distraction. She said there needs to be an extra definition of what “not on person” means. Ms. Prather said one of the other policies the committee looked at used the words not seen or heard and she feels that was very descriptive. Mr. Morton said he agreed because students will have it in their pockets and that would fall under “on your person” because you can see it so the policy needs to be very specific.

Group 2 – Ms. Dalton stated in the policy where it states ear buds and smart rings they would like to take smart rings out of the policy. Ms. Laggis said she feels as though they would be guessing whether not rings are smart rings at this point. Ms. Pettit said if the policy states use of personal electronic “communication” devices then we do not need to relist all of the items. Ms. Laggis asked if we need to add game consoles in the definition? Ms. Pettit said it falls under a personal electronic communication device. Ms. Dalton asked if gaming was an issue and Ms. Wilkes said she has not had an issue with that. Ms. Laggis said the use of devices during instructional time needs to be changed to during the school day so that it is consistent. Ms. Pettit said she feels we do not need the first paragraph and the group agreed. Ms. Mendez said she saw a student with a Nintendo DS and thinks the policy should include it. Mayor Blad said he feels it is covered with what we have already and our wording is already a catch all. Ms. Lacey said as a school and district we are not worried about gaming as much as communication and mental health that comes with that. Ms. Lacey said if teachers have a caddy for cell phones to be turned in does that trump a backpack where the policy states backpack or designated spot. Mayor Blad asked how schools keep students from using their cell phones in between classes. Ms. Lacey said they are supposed to keep it in their backpacks. Ms. Lacey said she does not agree with students not being able to have cell phones during passing time or at lunchtime. Ms. Wilkes said research shows it is harder for students when they are allowed to be on them for even a short amount of time to be able to disconnect. Ms. Pettit said she feels the half hour at lunch gives them more time to process what they are looking at on their phones as opposed to the three minutes in between classes. Ms. Eldredge said she feels we are taking away the consistency between the high schools if you leave the caddies in the classrooms. Mayor Blad said his concern is consistency piece as well because that is what matters with students and teachers. Ms. Eldredge said as a district we have to have consistency across the high schools and middle schools. Ms. Wilkes asked what the benefit of the caddy in the classroom is because the it makes the student have to take it out of their backpack to put it in the caddy. Ms. Lacey said it takes away the temptation because the backpack is not by their desk. She said their teachers have said having the phones away from their backpacks has helped. Ms. Wilkes asked how many of the committee wanted the caddy out of the policy and the majority voted to take it out. Ms. Wilkes said the less temptations we have the less conflict we will have with students. Mr. Knoff asked if students can have their phones during lunch time. Ms. Wilkes asked the committee how many would like for students to have their phones during lunch time and the majority agree they want students to be able to have it at lunch. Ms. Eldredge said if they are on campus, they should not be able to have them. Ms. Wilkes said if we go too strict, we might get a lot of push back. Ms. Lacey said she has a lot of kids that watch movies or play games because they do not have social activity with others. Mayor Blad asked if we could

take the “at school only” off where it says there is an exception for high school students to have their devices during their lunch periods. The committee agreed.

Ms. Laggis asked who is checking the background permissions for when students can use cameras? Ms. Wilkes said students have permission when they are part of a Flex class that uses this or part of yearbook group. Ms. Laggis said she felt this needed to be more specific for middle school and high school as they are different with posting online. Mr. Knoff asked if the district could provide cameras for these classes so students are not using their personal devices. Ms. Wilkes said the district has provided cameras and students are using them and not cell phones. Ms. Laggis asked about forfeiting device privileges and what that means? Ms. Wilkes said that means the student will not be able to have their personal electronic communication device at school. Ms. Tews said she feels the issue is that the policy is not using the same language consistently. She said we need to add the same language and put any type of personal electronic communication device and also add district provided devices for clarification. Ms. Pettit said students have Flex classes which includes photography. She said teachers have them go outside and take pictures for the class. She said the policy is simply saying they cannot take a picture without another student’s permission and they cannot post it without their parent’s permission. Mr. Morton said we could add a sentence that states unless it is part of the curriculum. Ms. Wilkes said as soon as we start giving permission for classes to do this, it will defeat the purpose. Mayor Blad asked if we could make the policy stricter and then make it looser if need be. He said he feels it is easier for their cell phones to be used as opposed to their Chromebook for these classes. Ms. Wilkes asked if we take out the last two sentences because we do not want to let teacher have discretion. Ms. Pettit asked if this should be in the policy as it talks about cameras and not cell phones? Ms. Lacey asked if Ms. Wilkes can look at this and possibly re-do the paragraph. Ms. Pettit said everything from the use of cameras and audio recordings on might need to be in a different policy. Ms. Wilkes said she will leave the first sentence and find somewhere else for the cameras to go.

Group 3 – Ms. Eldredge asked if a student gets in trouble with their phone how the phone makes it to the office and if it is safe. Ms. Wilkes said we wrote a grant and received some money to help purchase lockers to put in the office so if a phone comes to the office, it is transparent. Ms. Lacey said the student walks the phone to the office so that the teachers do not have to touch the phone. Ms. Prather asked if that can be added to the FAQ so that parents know how that works. Ms. Wilkes said this is a great idea.

Ms. Mathews asked what the line is when it comes to cell phones and 504’s. Ms. Wilkes said Ms. Harris has the expertise with this and she would work with the 504 team and they would make that decision.

Ms. Lacey asked to delete designated spot in classroom under expectations. Ms. Prestwich said she liked how clear the part of the policy was for each group of people. Ms. Mathews said teachers are only as strong as their weakest link and she would like to know how that would be implemented with teachers. Ms. Wilkes said in the current policy it is at the teacher’s discretion but the policy we are working on now will change that because they will not have discretion and it will come from administration down. Ms. Wilkes said part of the training will not just be training the parents but also the staff. Ms. Laggis does not feel devices “will be turned into the school office no later than the end of the school day” works for staff. She asked if that could be deleted. Ms. Wilkes said yes.

Group 4 - Ms. Lacey said they liked the why. She said under the first violation they would like “if needed” taken off. She said parents want to be notified and it should be documented if the cell phone is taken. She said they do not like the word confiscated and would like it to say turned over to administration.

Ms. Lacey said our district attorney said schools are not allowed to keep the phones after the end of the day. Ms. Wilkes said we will take off solely and still leave the retrievable by parent/guardian under the second violation and subsequent offense.

Ms. Lacey asked if the policy could have reasonable care in italics. Ms. Wilkes agreed.

Ms. Lacey asked if we could add it would be we could document it after the first time. Ms. Laggis said she does not document the first violation because she has students bring it one time and after a warning, they never do it again. She said she also has teachers go on and look at those behaviors. Ms. Wilkes said that is a personnel training issue. Mr. Morton asked if a student gets a write up in 8th grade and then gets a violation in 9th grade do the violations start over? Ms. Wilkes said they will start over from year to year and she will add to the policy progressive steps start over at the beginning of each school year.

Group 5 – *Mr. Morton asked if we could add student will work with “IEP and 504 teams” along with school administrator. Ms. Pettit said we need to take off school administrator because they only talk to the IEP and 504 team.*

Mr. Morton said they liked the emergency situations.

Discussion/Questions/Resources

- Draft Policy – does it meet all objectives

Ms. Wilkes stated that the next meeting will be April 1st at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:05 p.m.