Branford school board weighs possible ban on e-bikes, scooters on campus

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A person rides an e-bike on Oct. 1, 2026, in New York City. The Branford school district is looking at whether a ban on e-bikes is needed on its campuses. (Photo by Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images)

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A person rides an e-bike on Oct. 1, 2026, in New York City. The Branford school district is looking at whether a ban on e-bikes is needed on its campuses. (Photo by Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images)

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BRANFORD — Members of the Board of Education are weighing whether the Branford school district needs to enact a policy that bans motorized vehicles and devices on school grounds.

School board member David Hally brought up the idea of implementing a policy in the Branford Public Schools that would prohibit electric bikes, scooters, skateboards, hoverboards, motorized

unicycles and related vehicles and devices on campus, similar to the policy that Fairfield Public Schools now follows.

While such a policy is recommended by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the town's Board of Education should explore all avenues before taking this step, he said at a Wednesday school board meeting.

“To me, the most important thing on any of this is that the kids are safe,” Hally said. “If you send your child to school, you expect them to return in the same condition that you sent them to school.”

The Board of Education should first determine what liability the district could face if someone was injured in an incident involving an e-bike or similar vehicle on school grounds while no policy is in place, Hally said.

Then, board members can decide whether a policy is necessary, and if so, how restrictive it should be, he said.

One option would be a policy mandating that students get their vehicle inspected. Also, for example, the Board of Education could limit which classes of electric bikes and other similar vehicles are allowed on campus and/or require students to complete a safety course, he said.

“That would include such things as having them inspected to make sure that they indeed pass whatever inspection they would be, and they actually fit the codes they are designed for,” Hally said.

However, entities such as the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education recommend a policy that bans these vehicles on school grounds completely as a way to keep students safe, Hally said. “We notice in town people who are walking on sidewalks oftentimes are startled by these e-bikes,” he told his colleagues.

“Kids are going very fast on them and not necessarily in a safe manner,” he said. “So that’s a question around the school, where there’s an awful lot of activity, people coming in and out of school, especially at arrival and dismissal time.”

Plus, there can be issues with the lithium-ion batteries used by e-bikes.

“Unregulated, damaged or after-market lithium-ion batteries present severe thermal runaway risks that can cause intense fires and release toxic gas,” according to background information the Board of Education members reviewed.

If the Board of Education chooses to implement a restrictive policy, Hally said Superintendent Christopher Tranberg would have to provide a notice to families that e-bikes and similar devices are no longer allowed on school property.

At the meeting, Tranberg said the school district's administrators do not think a ban is necessary but said the school board has the final say on the issue.

But before making a decision, the Board of Education requested that its law firm weigh in on whether a policy is necessary and whether the district would be liable for any injuries involving such vehicles on campus.

“I think we need to act on that if there is liability, if we are allowing them,” board member Meaghan Delucia said at the meeting. “That should be the start of the conversation. Because if something does happen and the school and the town are liable, then we’re putting ourselves up for litigation.”