

A C T I O N S

The Standing Committee on Governance and Employee Issues met at 8:10 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2014 in Room 410 at the Dr. John E. Durkin Administration Building.

There were present: Ms. Biancheria, Mr. Foley and Chairman Monfredo

Representing Administration: Ms. Boulais, Dr. Rodrigues and Dr. Friel

Others in attendance: W. Foley, L. Houlihan and R. Pezzella

gb #5-291 - Mr. Monfredo/Miss Biancheria/Mr. Foley (October 19, 2015)

Request that the School Committee review the policy on cell phones and gather information from all secondary principals.

It was moved and voice voted to approve the following amended Rule 13 Policy to be included in the Policies Handbook:

Rule 13. – Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, and Laser Pointing Devices

While on school premises or at a school sponsored event, a student shall not, without expressed permission of appropriate school personnel, use any cell phone, smart phone, tablet, camera or any other type of electronic device which may potentially be disruptive of school activities or a distraction to students. Electronic devices shall include any cell phone, smart phone, tablet or anything powered by electricity and is suitable for communicating any oral, voice, audio or text messages or postings or for recording or communicating any audio, voice, picture, image or video imagery. Students are not permitted to have their cell phones or electronic devices powered while in school.

Use of such devices in violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, out-of-school suspension time. The School Administration reserves the right to confiscate cellular phones or other electronic devices when a student is believed to be violating this rule.

A student shall not use or possess a laser pointing device of any type on school premises or at a school sponsored event, unless such device is distributed by a teacher or its use is authorized by a teacher in connection with school work. Use of a laser pointing device against the face, eyes, or head of another individual may be considered a weapon for disciplinary purposes including, but not limited to, the possibility of long-term suspension.

Enforcement and Penalties:

This cell phone policy may be enforced by the principal, any teacher (including substitutes) or by any other school official or employee designated by the principal.

Enforcement personnel shall have the right to confiscate any cell phone or electronic device possessed or used in violation of the code of conduct.

Penalties for students found in violation of the policy will be as follows:

- First offense: Student's cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day.
- Second and subsequent offenses: Student's cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated and returned only to the student's parents or guardians. Any such parent or guardian may, within five days of any such confiscation, request a hearing to determine the validity of the violation of the code of conduct and resulting confiscation of the cell phone/electronic device. In such event the principal shall designate a hearing officer who shall: 1) give the student and/or his or her parents/guardians an opportunity to present their case; 2) hear or review the incident report from the enforcing person and any other person with relevant information; and, 3) provide a recommendation to the principal as to whether there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the cell phone policy of the code of conduct was violated by the student. Regardless of any request for a hearing, any confiscated cell phone/electronic device shall be returned to the parent/guardian at the first opportunity and shall not be dependent on the scheduling or outcome of any hearing.
- Student committing repeated violations of this policy may be subject to additional disciplinary action, consistent with the Worcester Public Schools Code of Conduct up to and including suspension from school.

Mr. Monfredo made the following motions:

Request that Rule 13. – Cell Phones, Electronic Devices and Laser Pointing Devices be reviewed in January for possible amendments, if needed.

Request that the Principals review Rule 13. – Cell Phones, Electronic Devices and Laser Pointing Devices with students and parents during the first week of school and include it in their newsletters.

On a voice vote, the motions were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Helen A. Friel, Ed.D.  
Clerk of the School Committee