



To: Board of Education  
Fr: Matt Gibson  
Re: **April 19, 2011 Agenda Item 5. Student Representative Report and Discussion of Board Policy 5131.7 Student Possession and Use of Two-Way Communication Devices**

**Pledge of Allegiance** – A student is asked to lead the pledge at the beginning of the meeting.

**Student Reports** – Students from both schools are asked to present reports on student activities and student council plans and events.

**Board and Student Rep Discussion Topics Identified to Date** – The following topics were brainstormed at the September 14 and October 12 Board of Education meetings and were prioritized and scheduled at the November 9 Board meeting.

**April 19 Discussion Topic of Board Policy 5131.7 – Student Possession and Use of Two-Way Communication Devices** – A copy of the current policy is attached for reference. A revision is currently in process for high schools, so high school student feedback is timely. For reference, an excerpt from current policy and the entire state statute follows:

In accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 118.258, student use of electronic communication devices, including two-way communication devices such as cellular phone, smart phones, or instant messaging devices is prohibited during the instructional school day. The instructional school day shall be defined in student handbooks for each school and generally includes the full period of time between the beginning of the first class and the end of the last class of the school day.

Wisconsin Statute 118.258 Electronic communication devices prohibited.

- (1) Each school board may adopt rules prohibiting a pupil from using or possessing an electronic communication device while on premises owned or rented by or under the control of a public school.
- (2) Annually, if the school board adopts rules under sub. (1), it shall provide each pupil enrolled in the school district with a copy of the rules.

**Discussion Questions –**

1. How is the current policy working that prohibits personal technology use for the full period of time between the beginning of the first class and the end of the last class of the school day?
2. If the current policy were revised to permit personal technology use during passing times, in class only at teacher's discretion, and possibly during study hall and lunch, would such opportunities throughout the day reduce or eliminate current policy violations?
3. Does the district need to take a more active role in the education of students on appropriate use of personal technology such as sexting, cheating, and giving out personal information to strangers?

<b>Brainstormed Topics</b>	<b>Priority (High, Middle, Low)</b>	<b>Suggested Meeting for Discussion</b>
Board policies that directly impact students that might be reviewed together, e.g. Policy 5127 Graduation/Separation and 5127.2 Course Retake	High	January 11
Proposed new high school schedule and changes in graduation requirements	High	November 23
Role of student councils on topics of school and community interest or concern, e.g. deterring periodic dangerous, destructive behaviors in the community	Middle	March 22
Review of exam exemption policy now in its second year of implementation	Middle	February 22
Impact of recent facilities renovations on student life, activities, learning, accessibility	Middle	February 8
Balance of district, user fees, and donor support for arts, athletics, and activities	High	March 8
Review of policy that governs use of cell phones in schools, e.g. Policy 5131.7 Student Possession and Use of Two Way Communication Devices	Middle	April 19
Review of proposed four block schedule for 2011-2012	High	October 26
High School Physical Education Department requirement for students to make up missed classes	Middle	April 6

**Recommended Board Motion – None.**

MG/studentreport32211/updated April 14, 2011

Elementary and Secondary  
Activities

Student Possession and Use of Two-Way Communication Devices

The Elmbrook School District recognizes the legitimate safety purpose that students and parents have in providing students with cellular phones and other two-way communication devices. The Elmbrook School District also recognizes the legitimate education right that students have to learn and engage in school activities without distraction or disruption from the use of two-way communication devices or other personal electronic equipment.

In accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 118.258, student use of electronic communication devices, including two-way communication devices such as cellular phones, smartphones, or instant messaging devices is prohibited during the instructional school day. The instructional school day shall be defined in student handbooks for each school and generally includes the full period of time between the beginning of the first class and the end of the last class of the school day.

Such possession or use may not in any way violate the following standards:

1. Disrupt the educational environment or process in the school district.
2. Endanger the health or safety of the student or anyone else.
3. Invade the rights (e.g., privacy rights in locker rooms, bathrooms, etc.) of others at school.
4. Involve illegal, unethical, or prohibited conduct (e.g., cheating) of any kind.

While possession, but not use, of such devices is permitted, students are responsible for keeping them turned off and out of sight during the school day. Students may use two-way communication devices while being transported to and from school or school-sponsored activities or field trips only with the permission of the supervising teacher, coach, advisor or bus driver. The District shall not be responsible for the safety or security of personal electronic equipment that students choose to bring to school.

Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, including loss of privilege to possess device if repeated violations occur. The device may be confiscated and parents may be required to pick up the device from the school principal or designee.

The rules related to this policy shall be published in student handbooks and distributed annually.

Wis. Stats. 118.258

Policy

Adopted: March 31, 1992  
Revised: 6/2002, 3/2010  
Reconfirmed: 3/95, 11/98, 5/2006, 4/2009

Board of Education  
School District of Elmbrook  
Brookfield, WI 53005

