

**Board Policy Committee  
Meeting  
Thursday, February 14, 2019**



**Committee Purpose**

*The Board Policy Committee provides the board with a venue to fully vet policies with various stakeholders from around the district. Policies have been placed on a three-year cycle for review.*

**Committee Leadership**

*Mr. Chris Smiley, School Board Committee Chair  
Dr. Tab Musser, Assistant Superintendent*

**Start Time:** 11:01 a.m.

**Location:** Technology Training Room, Landisville Education Center

**The Following People Were in Attendance:**

**Board Members:** Adam Aloisi, Grant Keener (via speaker phone), Bill Otto, Chris Smiley

**Administration:** Mike Bromirski, Bill Brossman, Brendan Cregan, Jim Dague, Doug Dandridge, Dan Forry, Mike Graham, Jordan Hagel (Athletic Intern), Maria Hoover, Tom Kramer, Lisa Mumma, Tab Musser, Steve Polonus, Mark Reinhardt, Kristina Strohm, Jeff Swarr, Shannon Zimmerman

**Other:** Kathy Miller - Recording Secretary

**Time for Public Comment:** None

**Discussion Items:**

Dr. Tab Musser, Assistant Superintendent, welcomed the group and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Dr. Musser opened the discussion saying that the board policy committee has been having discussions on cell phone usage at every level in the school district since October 2018.

Mr. Tom Kramer, CES principal, gave an update on cell phones at the elementary level. Mr. Kramer shared that students keep their cell phones in their backpacks and cell phones do not have any impact on instructional time at Centerville Elementary School. If there is a cell phone infraction, the teacher handles it in the classroom. If the problem could not be solved by the teacher, it would come to the principal next. He said information on cell phones is in the student handbook and Policy #237: Electronic Devices is sufficient.

Ms. Lisa Mumma, CMS principal, and Mr. Doug Dandridge, LMS principal, gave an update on cell phones at the middle school level. Ms. Mumma said Dr. Musser had asked the middle school principals to compare the cell phone guidelines for both middle schools and collect data. She began by summarizing the Policy #237: Electronic Devices. There was a discussion about instructional time and non-instructional time. Comparing CMS and LMS, their practices are almost identical. The only noted difference is that students at CMS put their cell phones in their locker when school starts and they stay there until the end of the school day, while students at LMS do the same, except they are able to use their cell phones during their lunch period.

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The committee members continued the discussion including:

- How the cell phone guidelines are communicated to students and parents
- Pros and cons of students having cell phones
- Discussion on the data collected regarding infractions at both middle schools

Mr. Bill Brossman gave an update on cell phones at the high school level. He said that high school students are not permitted to use cell phones for personal use except for lunch, flex, and between classes. Prior to the meeting, he spoke to teachers and collected information regarding ways that students may use cell phones during instructional times and noted that teachers have different approaches. He showed pictures of phone collection examples. Mr. Brossman showed a graph of discipline data from 2013-2014 through to 2018-2019. He explained flex expectations. He shared a situation where a teacher did not meet the policy's expectations. One of the board members shared his concern about execution of the policy by the teacher's discretion. He also feels that teachers, just like students, should not use their cell phones during instructional time.

The board members that were at the committee meeting all agreed that they do not want to micro-manage this if there are no problems, but want to know if the existing policy is still applicable.

Dr. Musser finalized the discussion by saying it is time to update this policy and he shared the areas that need revision. Policy #237 Electronic Devices will move to the March board policy meeting for more discussion.

Dr. Musser told the committee members that their time was appreciated.

**Adjournment Time:** 12:28 pm

Future meeting dates scheduled at 11:00 am in the Technology Training Room at Landisville Education Center (unless otherwise communicated):

March 14, 2019  
April 11, 2019  
May 9, 2019