

Presented to the PSD School Board of Trustees on March 12, 2012

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I am here to complain about your antiquated cell phone Policy. The Policy is outdated and has cost me significantly monetarily (**\$890.45**), with undo anguish, and considerable time. It cost me \$695.49 to replace the phone, \$76 for a new case, and \$118.96 for tracking and monitoring software to monitor my child's activities for a total of \$890.45. It took me about 4 hours to configure and re-setup the basic functions that I needed. This doesn't count what my Son has to do to get back in operation so he can use the Device for homework. Furthermore, the District could have saved me some of these costs by allowing me to retrieve the case and backup the Device to transfer the contents to the new one. My requests went unanswered.

It also bothers me that you classify the iPhone 4S Device that was confiscated as a Cell phone when it fits more appropriately as a Computer or even an iPod/Video Game which would have been handled differently. All these actions do nothing to deter my Son for his disobedience and only serves to cause resentment from me toward the School District. The Pascagoula School District should really look at using a Restorative Justice approach with Students instead of the old fashioned and antiquated "Zero Tolerance" approach. If you are not familiar with the Term, you should research it online to see the success that other Districts have with it.

I personally graduated from the Pascagoula School District back in 1978. I was taught things like the US Constitution and how great our Country was, how we broke away from the British Tyrants in 1776 and established the US Constitution with the 5th and 14th amendments protecting the rights of our Property. Quoting the Mississippi State Constitution - Article 3, Section 14. Due process. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property except by due process of law. SOURCES: 1817 art I § 10; 1832 art I § 10; 1869 art I § 2. What I was not taught was that the School District is above the Law. I am finding out that you can set your own Policies that the law gives you a great deal of leeway, but that doesn't make it justice and your demonstrative show of Power is more akin to the Tyranny of the 18th Century British than justice.

In the past, I always thought the school district and the parents were partners to help educate our children and bring them up to be responsible contributors to society. Before this phone incident, I could not even tell you the superintendent's name. I always felt like the school was using my tax dollars to educate my children and bring them up in the best way possible and my job was to raise my child to be a good citizen and contributor to society. This phone incident has left me feeling personally attacked by the school district. It's a very similar feeling to what I felt like in the late 80s when my home was broken into. My new underwater camera and boat electronics were all taken from my home and left me feeling violated. In college my car was broken into and my car stereo was stolen. And now the school district has taken my smart phone and will not give it back until the end of the year. In a way it's worse because I know who has it and I know they have the power to give it back and they're supposed to be my partner but they won't give it back.

In addition, you are telling me how to Parent, and that is not your job. I think having a smartphone and learning how to use it efficiently is one of the best things I can do for my

child to prepare him for adulthood and to be job competitive in the 21st century. In my day, I was asked to not bring a calculator to class. Today, I am asked to purchase them for my Student. In the future, I foresee that my grandchildren will be required to buy smart phones. Ironically, page 8 of your latest news letter, Volume 17, Issue 14, Spring 2012, Destination Graduation, talks about bringing iPads and mobile computing devices into the Classroom, yet here you are pushing mine out.

- In 2001, Mark Prensky coined the terms "digital native" and "digital immigrant" to explain the growing rift between student and educator. Prensky explained that our modern students are natives in a world complete with a culture, commerce, nomenclature and unique social structure that is foreign to older generations. The implications of Prensky's article are great, as is the impact of these ideas on education. While the older generations may see cell phones as a distraction, "digital natives" see them as a doorway through which everything is seen, experienced and learned.
- The potential uses of cell phones in the classes are numerous and varied. An in-class poll or quiz can be immediately staged by having students text the answers to a number. That number is hooked up to an Internet site that collects and analyze the answers immediately, and that site displays results on the projector or Smart Board, resulting in instant feedback and visible application of knowledge. Camera phones can be used to take pictures of notes or examples of class projects. More advanced phones can even be used for note-taking.
- Matt Cook, a math and science teacher in Texas, investigated the possibility of using cell phones in the classroom after finding his own cell phone a tremendously rich tool for documenting classroom practices and student progress. He contacted two major cell phone service providers as well as software provider GoKnow based in Michigan.

The response to Matt's queries were overwhelmingly positive. Cook's opinion of and interest in classroom cell phone use represents a growing acknowledgment of the power and prevalence of personal technological devices. The question being posed by many progressive school districts is whether or not they should harness technological literacies for educational good.

If you in fact do not want the Devices at School, a much better approach is to use technology that detects the presence of cell phones that use either voice and/or data. I have supplied fliers for one such device. One of these devices can be placed at the entrance and will alarm when a Student enters with a device. Or, Several of these Devices can be scatterered around the campus and combined with the available software to let Staff know when there are Devices anywhere on campus. This is a much better approach than the current one that is not working. My 3 Boys have been going through the Pascagoula School District since Kindergarten. The oldest one graduates this year. They have always brought their phones to school against our wishes citing that everyone does it and the rule is not enforced. With such a track record, I had no reason to doubt them and I fully expected my phone to be returned when this incident happened. I heard from several sources that last week a sweep was made in one classroom with a metal detector and 18 phones were confiscated. Also last week, the assistant Principal approached my boys and friends in the cafeteria to try and contact another Student to call him. They asked, "How are we suppose to do that?" with his reply being, "I know you have your ways". Teachers even instruct to leave the Devices in their Vehicles, but this is also in violation

of the current Policy, so even the Teachers do not understand it. Obviously the current boycott of Cell Phones on School Property is not working.

It is also important to note that I was never notified of my phone being confiscated. The system here as it is, the kids can have their phones confiscated, tell mom and dad that they lost it and the parents never know they have broken the school rules. The proper thing to do is to call the Parents to retrieve the phone so they can punish their disobedient Student.

You should also know that the PSD has the most strict Policy. Biloxi is close by allowing them in their vehicles. Moss Point has a good policy of giving the Principal discretion on the first offence. Most policies in the country say to keep them off and out of sight and on first offense the Parents are called to retrieve them. I am going to list the neighbouring Mississippi District Policies below and if anybody here has any Spine at all, you would make a motion to Dispense with the current policy and replace it with something more constitutional like the one from the Ocean Springs School District.

Ocean Springs:

CELLULAR PHONES

Cell phones are not to be used upon arrival on OSMS campus through dismissal. If a cell phone causes a disruption within the school, it will be confiscated. The student will be allowed to pick up the cell phone at the end of the day and will receive disciplinary action. Consequences for cell phone use will follow the usual discipline ladder procedures starting with a 2-hour after school detention.

Moss Point: Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, and Other Items

Cell phones, electronic devices, and other items are prohibited at all times.

To avoid interruptions to the instructional program, it is the policy of the Moss Point School District that no cell phones, pagers, Walkmans, games, or other disruptive items shall be brought into the school building or on the school bus, with the exception of district cell phones/pagers Issued to district personnel.

Such items brought into the school building are in violation of this policy. For the first offense, it is up to the principal's discretion how they handle the return of such items; however, for the second offense such items will be secured by the administration and released to the student's parent/guardian only at the end of the school year. Failure to comply will result in the student's placement on Group B in the Administrative Disciplinary Plan. There shall be no exceptions.

If a student taking a state-mandated test is found with a cell phone, the student's test will be voided as mandated by the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Student Assessment.

Jackson County: Use of Telephone

- School telephones are for school business only, and students will not be permitted to use them. In case of emergency or illness, calls for students are made through the office.
- Students are not permitted to use personal cell phones, beepers (pagers), or other electronic devices during school hours on any school campus.

Cellular Phones and other Electronic Devices' Policy

To avoid interruptions to the instructional program, the Jackson County School District **prohibits** the possession, use, display or activation of cellular phones, beepers (pages), iPods or other electronic devices by students during the instructional day on any school campus. Under this policy, the instructional day also includes, but is not limited to lunch breaks, class changes and any other structured or non-structured activity that occurs during the normal school day. The district also **prohibits** the activation or use of cellular and electronic devices on the school buses.

Cell phone and other electronic possession or use will result in the following consequences:

First Offense:

If a student has a cell phone and it is taken up during the instructional day as cited above, will be secured by the administration until released to the student's parent/guardian. Parents will be given a copy of this policy and asked to sign a form of acknowledgement.

Additional offenses:

Further offenses will result in the student being disciplined according to the assertive discipline policy (beginning with one day of **ISS**) **and** the phone will be returned **AFTER SCHOOL ON THE LAST SCHOOL DAY OF THE GIVEN SEMESTER.**

***If a cell phone or other electronic device is taken up in ISS, the student will be given additional days of ISS and the phone will be returned AFTER SCHOOL ON THE LAST SCHOOL DAY OF THE GIVEN SCHOOL YEAR.**

NOTE: If it is determined that a cell phone was used in a drug transaction, promoting a disturbance, texting answers, or any illegal or immoral activity, the student will be suspended and the phone will be returned on the last school day of the given school year.

There is no probationary period for cell phone use.

The Jackson County School District will assume no responsibility of student loss, damage, or theft of the devices.

STAFF HANDBOOK:

USE of CELL PHONES by TEACHERS and OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

The Jackson County School District believes that the school district was created for the primary purpose of effectively educating the children attending school within the school system. The District further believes that to accomplish this mission, it is imperative that classroom instructional time be protected. Therefore, any activity that distracts the teacher from his or her ability to utilize the entire class period for instructional purposes is prohibited. Specifically prohibited in the use of cell phones by teacher or other instructional personnel during class time.

The Districts further prohibits the use of text messaging in any form by all staff to students. *If a teacher receives a text message from a student he/she should make their building principal aware of this conduct.* School personnel are to use the

Connect-ED service to communicate with parents and students regarding emergency situations, school events and other important issues.

Alleged violations of this policy shall be discussed in a conference between the employee and the building principal. If the principal finds the violation(s) to be factual, the principal shall issue a written reprimand to the employee(s) involved. This reprimand shall become a part of the employee's personnel file. Repeated violations may result in non-renewal of an employee's contract or dismissal.

GEORGE COUNTY: George County School District • Lucedale, MS *Descriptor Code*

JICJ

Approved

November 2002

Use of Beepers/Cell Phones in School

Rescinds Policy

Revised 5/1/07,

8/2/07, 4/2/09

The Board of Education of the George County School District prohibits the use of beepers or cell phones by teachers or students at school or on school property during school hours.

There shall be a Zero Tolerance for students with cell phones beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. On the First Offense, the cell phone will be taken and returned after 90 calendar days. After the First Offense, the Cell phones will be returned to students one calendar year from the date taken or 30 days after the student leaves the school. A \$25 holding charge will be paid for the return of the phone.

Cell Phone Policy punishment is as follows:

First OffenseTake the phone (including SIM cards, video cards, batteries, etc.) for 90 calendar days.

Second Offense.....Take the phone for a calendar year and 3 Days ISI

Third Offense.....Take the phone for a calendar year and 3 Days OSI

Fourth Offense.....Take the phone for a calendar year and 45 days Alternative School.

Refusal to surrender phone would advance student to fourth offense.

Biloxi: POSSESSION/USE OF CELL PHONES AND/OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To avoid interruptions to the instructional program, it is the policy of this school district that no cell phones or other electronic devices shall be brought into the school building, with the exception of district cell phones/pagers permitted to be used by district personnel in accordance with policy.

Such items brought into the school building in violation of this policy will be secured by the administration until released to the student's parent/guardian at the end of the school year. Failure to comply will result in the student's placement on the discipline ladder in addition to confiscating cell phones.

There shall be no exceptions (Policy JGJ).

We acknowledge the potential seriousness of "sexting" and forbid any use of devices such as cell phones that could cause a distraction in the school environment

Gulfport: ELECTRONIC DEVICES PROHIBITED IN SCHOOL

Cell Phones, Radios, iPods, MP3 Players, Games:

Electronic devices can be a distraction to the educational environment. These devices must be turned off and out of view (in purse, pocket, or book bag) during the academic day. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the following:

1st offense: Electronic device will be confiscated for one week (7 days); parent/guardian must come to the school to get the device.

2nd offense: Electronic device will be confiscated for two weeks (14 days); parent/guardian must come to the school to get the device.

3rd offense: Electronic devices will be confiscated and kept in the office for remainder of the year.

Note:

The school will not be responsible for any items lost or stolen after they are confiscated. Any items that are not picked up by May 31st will be donated to a non-profit organization.

Bay-Waveland: Cellular Phones and Electronic Devices

PARAMETERS FOR CELL PHONE POSSESSION

Cellular phones are allowed on school campus, but students are not allowed to use the devices during the school day. The devices must remain out of sight and powered off at all times. The school day is defined as beginning from the moment the student walks / drives onto campus in the morning to report to school and ends at 2:45 each day once the campus is cleared. Students who stay after school may use the phones to call rides after 2:45 each day.

CELLULAR DEVICE OFFENSES

Students who violate the parameters of cell phone use are subject to the following consequences:

First Offense: The electronic device is confiscated and turned over to the principal.

A fine of \$20 will be imposed or the item is held in the office for one (1) week.

A parent or legal guardian may pick up the item from the office at the close of the school day if the fine is paid or at the end of the one (1) week period.

Second Offense: The electronic device is confiscated and turned over to the principal.

A fine of \$40 will be imposed or the item is held in the office for two (2) weeks.

A parent or legal guardian may pick up the item from the office at the close of the school day if the fine is paid or at the end of the two (2) week period.

Third Offenses: The electronic device is confiscated and turned over to the principal.

The item will be held in the office for the remainder of the school year.

A parent or legal guardian may pick up the item from the office at the close of the school day at the end of the school year.

* Please see the school discipline policy regarding consequences for use of a cellular or electronic

device outside of the allowable parameters of use/possession.

No device will be released prior to the close of the school day on the same day it is confiscated.

The device will not be released to anyone other than the parent or legal guardian.

All money from fines will be deposited into the district's student assistance account to be used for student purposes only.

A receipt will be issued to the parent or legal guardian when the fine is paid.

Students who are using the device or who refuse to hand over the device will be subject to school disciplinary consequences.

The Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, 2006, prohibits the possession and/or use of any electronic communication device, including cell phones and personal digital assistance devices, by students during the administration of scheduled statewide tests. Possession of any such device, even if it is not being used, is a violation of state policy. A student having a cell phone (or other electronic device) in his/her

possession anywhere on his/her person during the test administration is a testing violation. The consequence of this testing violation is that the test results for that student will be invalid; therefore, the score of any student in possession of these prohibited devices during the test administration will be invalid and therefore automatically non-passing.

PARAMETERS OF USE FOR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Devices such as MP3 players, Ipods, digital cameras, cd players and other like items, not including cell phones, may be utilized on campus during the school day with the teacher’s permission. Students may not use these during class changes or any other time when general instructions are being given to large groups.

OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE OFFENSES

The item will be confiscated and turned over to the principal

The student and his/her parent must meet with school administration for a conference prior to the device being returned. School discipline shall apply for not complying with the parameters of use.

Harrison County: 30. Use of Electronic Equipment (Cell phones, IPODS, Cameras.).....12

31. During school hours, all personal electronic equipment will be turned off and put away. Students violating this policy will receive a referral to the office and lose their privilege to carry their electronic device for nine (9) weeks. Students violating their probation will lose their privilege to carry their electronic device at school for the remainder of the school year. Students violating the school year probation will receive 12 demerits for each electronic device violation.

D’Iberville High School: 8:00 – 3:25

Harrison Central High School: 7:45 – 3:12

West Harrison High School 7:50—3:07

32. Disruption of Class Caused by Electronic Device (cell phones, IPODS, etc).....14

Principals may at their discretion set alternate school policies.

Hancock County: CELLULAR PHONES

Students are not allowed to use cell phones on school campus during school hours. Cell phones must be kept out of sight and in the “powered off” position. If there is use, suspicion of use, or if the cell phone is in plain view, it will be confiscated. A student who refuses to give a cell phone to a faculty member will be referred for disciplinary action. A confiscated cell phone must be picked up by the student’s parent. The school, administrators, faculty, and staff are not responsible for lost, stolen or confiscated items.

First offense – cell phone held in office for one week; parent pick-up required

Second Offense – cell phone held in office for two weeks; parent pick-up required.

Third offense – cell phone held in office for one month; parent pick-up required.

Fourth offense – cell phone held for the remainder of the school year; parent pick-up required.