

Malden School Committee
Policy & Procedure Subcommittee
Thursday, November 30, 2023
6:00 pm EST

Location: Zoom Remote Participation

Attendees: Ms. Jennifer Spadafora (Chair), Ms. Dawn Macklin, Mr. Robert McCarthy
Superintendent Noriega-Murphy

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm EST.

Agenda:

1. District Cell Phone Policy

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy discussed the current cell phone policy, which was only for high school students. Students can turn in their cell phones to teachers or keep them out of sight during class. The new policy presented keeps the current high school policy but also adds a K-8 policy. The K-8 policy states students will turn in their cell phones to home room teachers in the morning and then they'll be returned at dismissal. Ms. Macklin inquired about students that need their cell phones due to anxiety or other medical reasons. The Superintendent assured that students with IEPs that state they can keep their cell phones will be honored. The Superintendent also advised the subcommittee that cell phones are in safe locations, usually in a "cell phone hotel", with some that have the ability to charge phones while locked up. Ms. Macklin motioned to approve the new policy. Mr. McCarthy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Student Absence Policy

Ms. Spadafora introduced the agenda item, explaining this was brought by concerned parents who had children missing school due to illness and fever however, no need to see a physician, therefore unable to receive and excused absence doctors note. Superintendent Noriega Murphy presented an updated policy y indicates that any caregiver who keeps a student home without a doctor's note needs to inform the principal or nurse for next steps. This will allow school nurses the ability to excuse absences without student necessarily seeing a physician. Mr. McCarthy made the motion to approve the updated policy. Ms. Macklin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Vandalism and Damage of District Property

Superintendent Noriega-Murphy presented a new policy due to the increase in school property destruction. The Superintendent explained that we should be following Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 266 for crimes against property and more specifically defacement of property, and the penalties for willful, malicious, or wanton destruction or injury of property. Superintendent Noriega-Murphy further explained that instances of property destruction would prompt an internal investigation and payment of restitution to cover damage expenses. For hate crimes and damages over \$1,000, the local police department will be notified. Mr. McCarthy motioned to approve the new policy. Ms. Macklin seconded. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Ms. Macklin. Seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm EST