



# School Board Presentation

## **Cell Phone Policy at the High School Level**



October 2024

Presenters from Becker HS: Dave Kreft



# Background - IROD

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Dr. Dave Webb - “Homerun Leadership”

- Presented in Becker - November, 2022
- Focused on Problem Solving & Decision Making
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# Background - Cell Phones

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- District Mission: “Developing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community”
- 1:1 iPad District for over 10 years
- Lockers, backpacks, socioeconomic, involvement
- Personal view and perspective - leadership style



# Background - Cell Phones

- Legislation: A school district or charter school must adopt a policy on students' possession and use of cell phones in school by March 15, 2025. MESPA and MASSP must collaborate to make best practices available to schools on a range of different strategies in order to minimize the impact on cell phones on student behavior, mental health, and academic attainment.
- Cell Phone Toolkit has been shared with districts



# Cell Phone - Reason to Change

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1. Observation - Most skilled classroom managers
2. Department chair - feedback at a meeting
3. Attended session at the winter conference



# Information - February



- Staff Feedback - February, 2024 - Line Up
  - In my experience, student cell phones present challenges to my professional responsibilities. (1)
  - In my professional role, I believe our cell phone policy should be addressed. (2)



# Information - Internal Data - February

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- ODR (office discipline referral) data
- 2019-20 (9), '20-'21 (0), '21-'22 (14), '22-'23 (49 - 2nd place in number of ODRs), '23-'24 (44 - end of the year)
- 17 students who have a class in the building haven't had their iPad register with our network in 5 days or more



# Information - Policy - February

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

Cell phones are not allowed to be accessed during classes, unless designated as an appropriate time by the instructor. In general, cell phones are not to be seen during class time. All students are issued an iPad and students are not permitted to use their cell phone in replacement of their school issued device. Laser pointers are prohibited from school. Students are reminded that the use of cell phones or the Internet for the purpose of harassing or threatening others during the school day is in violation of the hazing and harassment policy and will result in disciplinary action.





# Information - Policy - February

## **Electronic Device Violations:**

First Violation- Teacher/Student Conference. Device may be confiscated for the class for the day.

Second Violation- Confiscation of the device for the day. The teacher will turn the device into the high school office. The student may pick up the device in the high school office at the end of the day.

Third Violation- Confiscation of the device until the parent retrieves it and has an administrative conference.



# Information - Articles - February

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- Tried to get different perspectives - articles
- Jigsawed the information and made the articles available for all



# Reactions - Cell Phones

- Reactions
    - Student Council
    - Paraprofessionals
    - Office Staff
    - Tech department
    - Other principals within the district and outside
    - Site based leadership - parents, community, students, staff
- ● ●



# Reactions - Cell Phones

- Reaction
  - ● ●
  - Communication
  - Consistency
  - “Self directed learners . . . changing global community”
  - Social media
  - Efficiency of some communications
  - Coaches/advisors communicating



# Options - Cell Phones

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- Options
  1. Options published and posted at a staff meeting
  2. Discussed reactions to each of the identified options
  3. Each teaching staff member could cast 2 votes for the options presented



# Options - Cell Phones

- Options
  - ● ●
  - 1. Total ban from 8-3 - 15 votes
  - 2. Partial ban/no phones in classrooms - 61 votes
  - 3. Policy varies by grade - 2 votes
  - 4. Status quo - more consistent and deliberate - 7 votes



# Cell Phones - 2024-25



- Posters and consistent messaging
- “From bell to bell there is no cell”
- Staff consistency
- Staff choice in classroom management
- Cell phone/calculator caddy - around 10 in use



# Cell Phones - 2024-25 - Impact

- Engagement - increased
- Time on task - increased ●●●
- 13 ODRs as of October 3rd, 2024
- Efficiency of parent drop off - little impact
- Hallways - little impact on tardies, reduction in group meet ups in hallways/bathrooms
- Awareness of subless classroom and “bathroom” breaks





# District Mission Statement

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“Developing self directed learners to thrive in a  
changing global community.”



# Questions

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What questions may you have with our continued implementation?