

## **Abilene Independent School District Board Document - Agenda II.I**

Meeting Date: August 1, 2024

Meeting Type: Board Workshop

Item Type: Presentation

Future Action Required: yes

If Yes, Month: Open

Subject: High School Cell Policy Reconsideration

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### **Background Information:**

The District's Discipline and Behavior Supports Committee recommends that the current high school cell phone policy be reconsidered. The committee has identified significant challenges in implementing the existing policy, citing that cell phones are a major distraction to instruction and a frequent source of student conflicts. Attempts to enforce the policy often result in student resistance, leading to unnecessary conflicts and strained relationships between teachers and students.

A survey was distributed to all high school staff to gather feedback on the current cell phone policy, the challenges of its enforcement, and their views on supporting a stricter no-cell-phone policy. The comprehensive results of this survey are included in the attached presentation.

The survey results align with the committee's recommendation and provide additional context and detail. It is evident that staff members favor a stricter phone policy, applied consistently across the campus, to minimize student resistance and prevent teacher-student conflicts.

However, in discussions with campus principals, some hesitancy was expressed about implementing a stricter policy without additional steps, such as seeking parent feedback and ensuring effective communication. Principals highlighted that consistency and persistence in enforcement across the campus would be challenging. They recommend taking additional time to consider best practices, tools, and approaches for a successful implementation.

The high school campus principals will be present at the upcoming workshop and are available to participate in the conversation.

### **Attached Supporting Documents:**

PDF of Slide Presentation-AISD Board Meeting HS Cell Phone Policy Review 2024

PDF of Current HS Cell Phone Policy

### **Fiscal Implications:**

### **Administrative Recommendation:**

Contact Person: Dr. Gustavo Villanueva and Mrs. Alison Camp

