

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting
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As the board representative to the committee that put together this policy, I wanted to offer a few comments.

This policy is unlike most that this board approves. It was created from scratch and is intended to embrace a future that defies prediction. In doing so, it carries a small amount of risk because it is impossible to know how technology will evolve, we only know is that it will evolve fairly quickly and it will be a major part of the world which students inherit.

I want to briefly address the two major issues which I've heard from constituents.

The first is the potential for abuse and the second is the issue of equity.

It is true that by opening the district to allowing student access to Wireless Communication Devices during the day, we are essentially telling our students that while we understand the possibility for abuse of this technology, we trust that the vast majority of them will use these devices during the school day for the educational benefits for which they are intended. For those who do not, our intention is to punish the behavior as we do today, but not ban the tool that enables the behavior. We cannot rigorously define everything that a student could do wrong with a WCD. As with many things, we'll know it when we see it and if our experiences require a policy modification, we will make one. As it is, we give, as we should, a tremendous amount of latitude to building administrators and teachers. My personal expectation is that students will quickly learn what it and is not acceptable in classrooms across the district, just as they do today.

Regarding equity, Every time we talk about technology, we must always be cognizant of the issue that we must not inadvertently create a class system within public education. While we embrace WCD with this policy, we do not provide them and obviously, we do not require them. The reality is that some WCD are fairly cheap now (Kindle Fire is under \$200) and getting cheaper every year and in a few years, WCD will be as ubiquitous as calculators. As this market segment ages and Worthington residents discard first generation WCD for the latest and greatest, we might consider accepting these devices as donations for our students who need them.

I'll close by thanking Mr. Joseph and all the members of the WCD committee for their contributions.