

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 10, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Trustee Request for Information

ORIGINATOR: J. Bidulock, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Dennis Huculak, Norman Mathew

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #108, MAY 13, 2008 (TRUSTEE COLBURN) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING DISTRICT POLICY AND PRACTICE WITH RESPECT TO CELL PHONE USAGE BY STUDENTS. TRUSTEE REQUEST #108 MAY 26, 2008 (TRUSTEE COLBURN) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING DISTRICT POLICY AND PRACTICE WITH RESPECT TO CELL PHONE USAGE BY STUDENTS. Section 7(d) of the School Act requires a student to “comply with the rules of the school.” Section B(5)(n) of Board Policy IG.BP “Student Behaviour and Conduct” indicates that disciplinary action may be taken for “use of technology such as computers, cameras, cell phones, and other digital equipment for purposes that are illegal, unethical, immoral, or inappropriate.”

The majority of schools contacted have specific rules and consequences relating to cell phones. Although there are slight variations amongst the schools regarding the use of cell phones, the policies generally stated that cell phones must be turned off and kept out of sight while students are in the school during school hours. Usually, this policy has been communicated to students through the use of agenda books or student handbooks. Consequences, also communicated through agenda books or student handbooks, vary from school to school, but escalate as the number of breaches by a student increase. Generally, students receive a warning on the first incident, may have the phone confiscated for the rest of the school day for a second incident, and parental involvement may be required for subsequent breaches. As with any behavioural expectations, continued infractions may result in more severe consequences such as suspension. (D. Huculak, 429-8394, N. Mathew, 429-8256)

JB:ja