<u>Student Voice in the Polaris Technology Policy</u>

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April 16, 2024

Therefore, be it resolved by Polaris General Assembly, that the Student Body of Polaris calls for reform on the Polaris Tech/Phone Policy, and further calls for student voice to be included in the reform process.

1. **Whereas,** students recognize the need for a technology policy that adequately addresses phone and other electronic misuse;

2. **Whereas,** the current tech policy is outdated and ineffective, affecting our school's ability to function as an educational institution;

3. **Whereas,** any new school policy must be developed seeking input and consent of all involved parties to guarantee said policy's chances of long-lasting success;

4. **Whereas,** this is supported by the Beliefs Statement section of the Polaris K-12 website, which states: "*Polaris is a community that includes students, staff and parents*", "*Polaris K-12 School is a community in which teachers, students, and parents work together*", and most importantly, "*Community input regarding Polaris policies is valued and expected*";[1]

5. **Whereas,** students are an integral pillar of our community, and the most affected by phone policies, and thus must have input into any new electronics policy;

6. **Whereas,** students recognize that while the technology policy is primarily a faculty-based decision-making process, having student input would greatly increase the acceptance of and adherence to any new technology policy among students;

7. **Whereas,** some students have difficulty controlling their phone and other electronic usage, negatively affecting the learning experience of said students;

8. **Whereas,** this misuse further affects students not abusing electronics, who are distracted by the cellphone usage of others;

9. **Whereas,** students appreciate the trust and autonomy that forms an integral part of Polaris as a School and a Community;

10. **Whereas,** behaviors associated with phone addiction are eroding said trust that our community is built on, particularly between students and teachers;

11. **Whereas,** many students who utilize phones are able to use them responsibly and non-disruptively, and those who are disruptive are simply an extremely noticeable minority;

12. **Whereas,** students recognize that chromebooks and personal computers offer many of the same distractions that phones do, and need to be similarly regulated;

13. **Whereas,** some students have a habit of earbud usage that interferes with their learning as well as those of fellow students;

14. **Whereas,** some students require the use of headphones to play music in order to complete their work, and are generally capable of responsibly using earbuds to this end;

15. **Whereas,** similarly, some students have medical or educational needs, and must be able to access their phones and other devices whenever necessary;

16. **Whereas,** the rights and needs of these students must be taken into consideration, and included in any new policy;

17. **Whereas,** students would vastly prefer to have their phones on their person or in a bag with them rather than in a bin or "phone hotel";

18. **Whereas,** this is justified not only by the personal wishes of the majority of the student body but also by the more pragmatic reason of students requiring quick access to phones in emergencies;

19. **Whereas,** the Polaris student body vehemently opposes the proposal to use signal blocking phone bags; such as Yondr;

20. **Whereas,** students would greatly like to be able to access their phones before school and during passing periods, and wish to see this reflected in any new policy;

21. **Whereas,** this would give students a chance to check their phones before class, further discouraging the use of electronics in class;

22. **Whereas,** a technology policy would be most effectively utilized if it were to focus on disruptive students, and trusted responsible students to have the responsibility and maturity to know when phone usage would be acceptable;

23. **Whereas,** any technology policy adopted must be clear, pragmatic, and realistically enforceable so that it is obvious when the policy is being broken and infractions are therefore rare;

24. **Whereas,** the student body at large should be shown and asked for input on any draft Technology policy before it comes into effect; and

25. **Whereas,** student voices and opinions must be listened to and included in the development of any new policy, particularly in a technology policy in which they are particularly affected.

Therefore, be it resolved by Polaris General Assembly, that the student body of Polaris calls for reform on the Polaris Tech/Phone Policy, and further calls for student voice to be included in the reform process.

Action Statement: If approved by Polaris General Assembly, Polaris Student Government will, on behalf of the student body, deliver a copy of this resolution to Principle Tia Clay, and advocate for student voice and continued autonomy in the Technology Policy decision-making process. Furthermore, if there are any committees or other bodies created to facilitate the creation of a new technology policy, Student Government will advocate for the inclusion of students in said bodies.

Sources:

1. "About Us / Welcome." Polaris K-12, Anchorage School District, www.asdk12.org/Page/10763. Accessed 16 Apr. 2024.