

GREATER JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SDM Committee on Cell Phone Usage Meeting Agenda
Monday, October 21, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
The JHS Media Center

I. Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Team Members and Administrators in attendance:

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	COMMENTS
Scott Hale	X		
Nick Snow	X		
Michelle Abel	X		
Deb Orsell	X		
Hanz Litz	X		
Meredith Fagan	X		
Tara Bruce		X	
Nicole Panton	X		
Katie McCumber	X		
Allison Grupp	X		
Lisa VanAernam	X		
Jaclyn Whitman	X		
Helen Reed	X		
Alexis St. John		X	
Miles Rocklin	X		
Adam Blakeslee		X	
Carly Smrtic		X	

Sean Heffernan	X		
Camilla Ventura	X		
Hanna Conti	X		
Brady Warner		X	
Mia Iorio	X		
Elliot Haverly	X		
Meghan Heroth	X		
Bobbi Jo Haverly	X		
Jamie Tallon		X	

Guests:

Others:

III. New Business

★ Establish roles and responsibilities (*5 min.*)

- Notetaker - Meredith Fagan
- Timekeeper - Nicole Panton
- Facilitator - Scott Hale and Nick Snow

★ Cell Phone Discussion (*15 min.*)


- [Sharing the Intended Position with the SDM Team](#)
 - Dr. Crankshaw's position was shared with the SMD team and they were given time to read through it.
- Timeline for Ad Hoc work—two more meetings culminating in a shared decision making meeting
 - Meeting next Monday, October 28, 2024
- Set goals
 - Tables discuss their goals

- Most table agree that phones negatively impact student learning and socialization
- Concerns about school safety without cell phones
- Most tables agree they are a distraction and negatively impact academic performance
- Some students suggest that there may be a time period during the school day when they do have access to their phones

★ What the research is telling us about adolescence and cell phone use (20 min.)

- Share most recent research
 - Read “What’s Behind the Ban on Cell Phones in K-12 Schools?”
 - Addiction, isolation, neglect
 - Big Tech is driving the addiction for profit
 - 24 hour on-demand entertainment; mindlessness and lack of rest in the old days, tv programming shut down
 - Mental health crisis is largely impacted by phones
 - Intention of phones (parental contact) is not the reality of the cell phone usage.
 - Anxiety level of everage kid today comparable to anxiety of a kid in the ‘50s who would have been hospitalized
 - Happiness and joy matters; no matter what our students choose, we want them to be happy; “...experience joy in a conversation”--from article

★ Review District Code of conduct and policy

-  FINAL DRAFT - Code of Conduct and Restorative Supports 2024-25
 - Pg. 30
 - Mr. Hale briefly discusses the draft of the Code of Conduct; cell phones are prohibited right now.
 - Teachers do use them in class—are they necessary?
 - Yonder pouches at schools
 - Fights that are recorded
- District Policy
 - None currently at GJSD

★ Next Meeting Dates

- October 28, 2024

- November 21, 2024

IV. Next Items

- What are other districts doing?
- Communication to the community
- Evaluate
- How are we going to help people get over their addiction as well?
- Educate parents on how it is negatively impacting their children

V. Meeting concluded at 4:00