

Policy Committee Update #6

December 16, 2010 – J. Karmel

The Policy Committee met in the Library Conference Center on Tuesday, December 14, from 12:00 – 1:00 to discuss two items:

Item 1: Committee members put together a draft Policy on Academic Dishonesty following discussion and input from the RSS high school staff on December 8th. The Committee considered the staff's input and recommended that the attached draft policy move forward for discussion at the January 5, 2011 School Council meeting.

Item 2: The Committee discussed the increased use of electronic devices in school. As explained by Joe, the main concern is that many of the latest electronic devices combine features of the I-pod with telephones, video games, and cameras. Currently, students are asked not to use electronic devices in instructional areas. This policy is difficult to enforce because students have these devices on their person and have access to their use in hallways, washrooms, and change rooms. At the present time, teachers report having to ask some students almost every class to put away the devices, take off earphones/buds, and not listen to music or play games during class time.

The Committee questioned the need for the use of any electronic device in the school building, noting that the office telephone and a pay phone in the front foyer are available to students in the event of an emergency. Also, parents who wish to contact their children by phone can do so via the front office. Therefore, it was felt that there is no need for students to use electronic devices in the building or carry them on their person while they are in the school building. The Committee recommends that students keep the devices in their lockers (Gr. 6 - 12) or backpacks (Gr. K - 5) upon entering the school building. When leaving the building for lunch or after school, students will be asked to carry the devices either in their school bags or in their hands until they have exited the building.

Students who fail to comply with this policy will be asked to hand over the device to the teacher until the end of the class. A reoccurrence would result in the device being confiscated and returned to a parent/guardian of the student. The Committee recommended that such a policy would be best implemented at the start of the 2011/2012 school year following an opportunity for students and parents to become aware of the change in policy.

The next meeting will be held in the Library Conference Center on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 from 12:00 – 1:00. Everyone is welcome.

Have a relaxing holiday season, and no over-doing it!