

January 16, 2002

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO REVIEW BOARD RULE 6Gx13-5D-1.08 – MAINTENANCE OF APPROPRIATE STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND THE SECONDARY LEVEL – CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT, AND REVISE THE RULE TO ALLOW FOR THE POSSESSION & USE OF CELLULAR PHONES IN SELECTED AREAS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS, DURING NON-SCHOOL HOURS AS DESIGNATED BY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS] Added

Over the course of the past decade, cellular phones have migrated from being a commodity exclusive to only a select, eccentric minority, to becoming the virtual societal need that we know today. In the past, the use of cellular phones was a luxury. Today, a vast number of parents and their children depend on cellular phones to communicate for:

- a) transportation arrangements of active students who are involved in extracurricular school activities and have inconsistent schedules,
- b) emergency situations where a student has car trouble while on school property and may not have a reliable, alternative method of transportation, and
- c) making arrangements for transportation with siblings attending other schools.

Furthermore, the convenience of a cellular phone offers parents a sense of security, by knowing that their children are always within reach.

Currently, Board Rule 6Gx13-5D-1.08 - Maintenance of Appropriate Student Behavior and the Secondary Level, defines the 'possession of objects such as...cellular phones', to be an act of Disruptive Conduct. The *use* of a cellular phone, at any capacity, inside any and all school buildings, should still be considered 'Disruptive Behavior'. However, given the overwhelming increase of dependency on cellular phones, this Board Member believes that a revision allowing for 1) possession of cellular phones, and 2) use of cellular phones outside of school buildings during non-school hours is appropriate and in order.

REVISED
REPLACEMENT 2

J-3