

### Notes from 10.9.13

*(I have changed some of the wording to make the information grammatically correct and/or clearer. If I did not accurately write down what you said, please let me know and I will revise the notes accordingly. Mr. Derfel)*

**Present:** Tyler VanOstrand, Arthur Linnik, Jacob Hartman, Morgan Snyder, Jeremiah Emery, Kayla Goodwin, Skyanne Riker, Debra DeLorenzo, Justin Everhart, Damion Hulbert, Lesa Graves, Marcus Alger, Tiffany Harden, Jeffrey Allen, Jaedee, Miller, Chris Pierce, Elianna Monroe, Barry Derfel

Mr. Derfel presented a 6-step plan for organizing our school community to change the electronics policy at Newfield High School.

### 6-Step Plan

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Begin by changing the expectations for lunch and recess. When people see that students can actively take responsibility for using their electronics at this time of the day, in this place, in an appropriate manner, they will be more open to considering changes in other parts of the building. |
| 2. Identify all of the possible problems that could arise from allowing students and staff to use electronics in the cafeteria and gym during lunch and recess.  |
| 3. Come up with easy, reasonable solutions to each of the possible problems.   |
| 4. Communicate our plan to staff and students.   |
| 5. Create a way for all students to formally agree that they will take responsibility, individually and together, for following the agreed upon solutions without making the adults remind them.   |
| 6. Try out the new expectations, monitor the situation, revise the agreement as needed.  |

**Time Frame:** We agreed that a realistic goal would be to have the new expectations in place by Thanksgiving.

**List of reasons** why allowing electronics in the gym and cafeteria during lunch and recess could be a problem:

- When it rings and it's not in silent mode, it disturbs others.
- It can be used for cheating by sending a message or surfing the web.
- Students won't pay attention to what is happening around them when they're concentrating on their cell phones.
- Students find it distracting when other students use their cell phones during discussion.
- Texting is a distraction.
- Students could take illegal photos (or photos used without permission) in school.
- Cell phones can be used to contact people from outside which can be used to start illegal activities.
- Sometimes cell phones are used for pranks, such as calling the school and saying that there's a bomb.
- During an emergency, students using cell phones overload the system, making it more difficult to contact emergency services.
- Cell phones contribute to making rumors or gossip worse.
- More electronic use could lead to more rumors, gossip, and drama.
- It could be hard to get everyone's attention in an emergency or to make an announcement.
- More use could lead to fewer personal interactions.
- More Noise/disruption
- Inappropriate ring tones
- Stealing
- Breaking
- Not everyone has one – hurt feelings/left out
- Older students could be sharing inappropriate material with younger students
- Yanking other people's earbuds could be hurtful.
- Jealousy/boasting (status symbol)
- Students may not know the legal and district consequences for misuse
- Research shows: time is needed to unwind after unplugging
- Annoying body movement (tapping feet, moving arms) at a table could distract others.
- Accidents in the gym
- What will families and community think?