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Dennis Hershberger  
District 7

Betty J. Arnold  
District 8

Jim Porter  
District 9

## DRAFT Minutes

### Blue Ribbon Task Force on Student Screen Time October 24, 2024

The tenth meeting of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Student Screen Time began at 4:00 p.m. on October 24, 2024. The meeting was virtual.

Co-Chairs: Principal Brian Houghton (Student Ava Gustin was unable to attend)

#### Statement of Purpose

Develop guidance/recommendations, based in research, on:

- students' personal device use in school,
- screen time and mental health, and
- parental oversight of district-owned devices.

#### Calendar for meetings

October 24: Mental Health and Parental Oversight recommendations

October 30: Finishing all the motions

November 7: Present final report and voting

November 12 at 10:55 a.m.: Report presented to State Board of Education by Co-Chairs

#### Welcome from Commissioner Watson

Dr. Watson welcomed the members of the task force.

START  
2:39

Co-Chair Principal Houghton stated that based on the survey sent out earlier this week, discussion will be limited to 5 minutes, there will be no breakout sessions and if the task force doesn't finish there will be a vote on when to hold another meeting on motions.

Motions:

PERSONAL  
DEVICE  
MOTIONS

Kim Whitman moved that the Task Force recommend exemption policies be developed for students with IEPs, 504 plans, or related health and educational plans, when specified in plan. Amy Warren seconded the motion. Motion failed. 11 members in favor (39%), 17 members opposed (61%) and 1 member abstained (abstentions do not count towards the total vote).

Exemptions  
5:20

Lori Barnes moved that the Task Force amend the question about phone-free school option to include personal devices such as ear pods, headphones, smart watches, etc. for elementary, middle, and high school. Senator Blasi seconded the motion. Motion carried, 19 members in favor (68%), 9 members opposed (32%), with no abstentions.

Personal devices  
14:20

Lane Lamping moved that the Task Force recommend that districts develop a process for teachers to report gaps in district-provided technology, so teachers do not supplement lack of or insufficient district-issued technology with use of personal devices. Amy Warren seconded the motion. Motion carried, 15 in favor (62.5%), 9 opposed (37.5%), and 4 members abstained.

Supplement  
22:20

Representative Scott Hill moved that the Task Force recommend that districts create a personal device policy for staff. Lori Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried, 20 members in favor (77%), 6 members opposed (23%), and 1 member abstained.

Staff Devices  
29:24

Amy Warren moved that the Task Force not make any recommendation on describing “what we want students to do vs. what not to do, and not infringe upon personal property”. Kim Whitman seconded the motion. Motion carried, 18 members in favor (75%), 6 members opposed (25%), and 3 members abstained.

Personal Property  
36:48

The task force now moved into the “Screen Time and Mental Health” motion recommendations.

**MENTAL HEALTH MOTIONS**

Lyndsay Noble moved that the Task Force recommend districts provide digital citizenship education from non-industry related resources that incorporate un-biased or independently funded research. Melanie Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried, 23 members in favor (92%), 2 members opposed (8%), and 2 members abstained.

40:32  
Digital Citizenship  
40:46

Kim Whitman moved that the Task Force recommend school districts share peer reviewed research and discuss mental health dangers associated with unsupervised use of social media, gaming platforms, and messaging/texting with students, families, and school staff. Connie Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried, 24 members in favor (92%), 2 members opposed (8%), and 1 member abstained.

Stakeholder Education  
42:36

Melanie Haas moved that the Task Force not make a recommendation on “parents determine age-appropriate screentime with their children.” Laura Corey seconded the motion. Motion carried, 26 members in favor (100%), no members opposed (0%), and 1 member abstained.

Parents determine  
46:23

Lyndsay Noble moved that the Task Force recommend districts develop a robust website and communication option that does not use social media to inform or communicate with students. (clarification: recommend districts establish means of communication with parents, students, and community that is not reliant upon social media, e.g. establishing a phone tree. Erika Sheets seconded the motion. Motion carried, 15 members in favor (58%), 11 opposed (42%), and 1 member abstained.

Communicating via social media  
50:00

Erika Sheets moved that the Task Force recommend that educators have students take regular breaks from screens throughout the school day. Lori Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried, 27 members in favor (96%), 1 member opposed (4%), with no abstentions.  
The Task Force moved into the third area, parental oversight of district devices. The Chair asked for motions.

Breaks from  
Screens  
58:31

**PARENTAL  
OVERSIGHT  
OF DISTRICT  
DEVICES**

Katie Allen moved that the Task Force recommend school districts manage devices in such a way that the default settings protect students without any parental supervision necessary. Laura Corey seconded the motion. Motion carried, 26 members in favor (90%), 3 members opposed (10%), with no abstentions.

Default  
Protections  
1:02:20

Lane Lamping moved that the Task Force recommend acceptable use policies be written in age-appropriate language for all grades. Tawna Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried, 28 members in favor (97%), 1 member opposed (3%), with no abstentions.

Acceptable  
Use  
1:09:30

Erika Sheets moved that the Task Force recommend school districts provide parents with clear instructions and access necessary to report problems with devices or content to IT. Katie Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried, 18 members in favor (69%), 8 members opposed (31%), and 2 members abstained.

District  
Owned  
Devices  
1:11:41

Erika Sheets moved that the Task Force recommend school districts emphasize the importance of maintaining a balance between digital and non-digital learning experiences, and not rely solely on technology-based instruction. Tonya Merrigan seconded the motion. Motion carried, 19 members in favor (70%), 8 members opposed (30%) with no abstentions.

Balanced Use  
1:17:36

Kim Whitman moved that the Task Force recommend school districts develop policies that allow families to opt-out of school-owned devices being sent home. Erika Sheets seconded the motion. Motion carried, 22 members in favor (92%), 2 members opposed (8%), and 2 members abstained.

Opt-Out  
Policies  
1:23:57

The Chair noted that as the time is running out, the Task Force will meet next week, to address the last motions. The task force voted on the next meeting time, and Wednesday, October 30 was chosen.

The Chair adjourned the meeting until October 30, Wednesday, at 4:00 p.m.