



Parent Partnership Committee

5/2/2011
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
WHS Conference Room

Meeting called by:
Janelle Yanni

Type of meeting: Parent Partnership

Facilitator: Janelle, Sgt. Mark Spain - Presenter

Note taker: Marypat Murtagh

Timekeeper: Janelle

Attendees: Janelle, Mark, Marypat, Veronica Bedard, Michelle Rosario, Barbara DiPofi and Rori Wood

----- Agenda Topics -----

Welcome	Janelle	5
Sexting and Texting	Sgt. Spain	50
Questions	All	5

Other Information



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Welcome

Janelle

5

Discussion: Janelle introduced Sgt. Mark Spain. The topic of the meeting was discussed. This topic was suggested by a parent on the parent partnership committee.

Conclusions: NA

Action items:

NA

Person responsible:

NA

Deadline:

NA

Discussion: The presentation began with a video focusing on the dangers of texting while driving. Students can take on-line pledge not to text and drive (200,000 car accidents caused in 2010). A law officer can't stop for just texting while driving. Sgt. Spain tries to teach students the pros and cons of texting. Parent concerns for texting – too much info on the net, students share info/leads to cyberbullying, pervert access. One important teacher concern is cheating. Sexting – girls send competing provocative photos to boy, boy forwards to others. There is no precise legal definition – sending texts, photos or videos of sexual nature. Sexting is covered by federal/state child porn statutes. There used to be just access for SMS – short message service and now there is MMS – multimedia message service. Most cameras now have cameras on them. All lap tops now have cameras.

Scope of the problem – teen usage of cell phone rising 15-18 84%, 10-14 60% and 6-9 22%, average age first use 10, teens love to send texts boys avg. 2500 per month and girls avg. 4000 month, 90% of cell phones have cameras 20% of teens have sent photos and 39% of teens have sent explicit messages. Why does this happen? Picture or message was sent to a boyfriend or girlfriend and then it is forwarded to others. They do it for attention, to be “cool”, to be one of the popular girls, to solicit/further a relationship, it is fast and easy, because of hormones and because celebrities do it.

Legal issues – sexually explicit image under 18- child porn, child can be prosecuted for receipt, possession, production (age in photo), risk for school personnel, conviction – sex offender, Romeo and Juliet exceptions.

Emotional/Social Impact – short term embarrassment/blackmail, depression, mental illness.

Consequences – school sanctions – parallel w-law enforcement, negative impact on college admissions/jobs, civil liability – invasion of privacy/intentional infliction of emotional distress, criminal prosecution, disruption of educational environment, civil lawsuits, criminal liability. Districts need to have policies in order and they need to educate students, parents and teachers about these issue.

Conclusions: These are important issues and people must be educated in order to address these concerns that parents may have with their children or that teachers, staff and administration may have with their students.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Write minutes for partnership committee and have minutes placed on website. Place video of meeting on website.	Janelle	5/3/11

Questions

All

5

Discussion: Suggestion – set up meetings and topics in advance and add to school calendar to hopefully increase attendance and participation at meetings.

Conclusions: Janelle will set up next School Improvement Special Ed. meeting with committee to brainstorm dates and topics for next year's parent partnership meetings.

Action items:

Janelle will set up next School Improvement Special Ed. meeting for June 1st at 3:00 in her office at the high school.

Person responsible:

Janelle

Deadline:

5/3

Other Information