

Board Chair Holley Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Holley Carlson, Pam Daly, Jennifer James-Wilson, Keith White, and Nathanael O'Hara. Also present were Superintendent David Engle, staff, and community members.

Nathanael O'Hara led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Holley Carlson read the District Mission Statement.

Approval of Agenda

Keith White moved to approve the agenda. Pam Daly seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Shining Star Awards

Superintendent Engle and High School Special Education teacher Darlene Marmol presented a Shining Star award to Amy Recker, for her outstanding work with students in Ms. Marmol's class.

Public Comments

Sonia Story spoke about the dangers of wireless radiation from electronic wireless devices in the District. The handouts presented by Ms. Story are attached to these minutes.

Approval of Minutes

The following minutes were brought for approval:

- January 26, 2015, Regular Board Meeting. Pam Daly moved to approve the minutes. Mr. White seconded and the motion carried 5-0.
- February 9, 2015, Work/Study Meeting. Mr. O'Hara moved to approve the minutes. Pam Daly seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Daly moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. White seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Included on the consent agenda were the following items: 1) Accounts Payable for February 23, 2015; 2) Payroll for January, 2015; 3) Recommend the following actions:

Hire: Robert Cantley for the position of Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach, Port Townsend High School, effective the 2014-15 school year

Donation: \$1,000 from Steve Moore to Food Service to assist in upgrading kitchen equipment in the District

Board Correspondence – None

Reports

Superintendent

Superintendent Engle reported on the following:

- The agenda for Board work/study meetings for the remainder of the school year
- Board retreat planned for August to discuss strategic planning for the District

- Core 24, the initiative which would increase the number of credits necessary to graduate from high school to 24. Principal Ehrhardt will make a presentation regarding this topic at the March 23, 2015 regular board meeting.
- Discussion about concerns of wireless radiation raised by Ms. Story during public comments.
- Recognition from Governor Inslee for the District's participation in the College Bound Scholarship Program
- Board Self-Assessment. It was decided to plan a mini-retreat on March 9, 2015, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., before the work/study meeting at 6:00 p.m., to review the board self-assessment results.

Colin Coker, ASB (Associated Student Body) Representative arrived and reported that three wrestlers from Port Townsend competed at the State meet, with Chloe Rogers placing second; spring sports will begin on March 2; and the boys' soccer team has a new head coach and assistant coach.

Business Manager

Business Manager Sara Bonneville presented a January, 2015 budget status report, and a financial summary for all funds. ASB funds were discussed.

Action Items

Approval of Policy 1400 – Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum

Ms. Daly moved to approve Policy 1400 as presented. Mr. O'Hara seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Policy 2145 – Suicide Prevention

Ms. James-Wilson moved to approve Policy 2145 as presented. Ms. Daly seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Unfinished Business

March 23, 2015 Regular Business Meeting. Dr. Engle, Ms. James-Wilson and Holley Carlson will all be absent from this meeting, but it was decided to proceed with the meeting as Mr. White, Mr. O'Hara, and Ms. Daly plan to be present. Ms. Daly will conduct the meeting as Vice-Chair.

Board Self-Assessment Results. This item was postponed to the mini-retreat on March 9, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

New Business – WSSDA (Washington State School Directors' Association) Regional Meetings

Ms. James-Wilson and Mr. White will attend the regional meeting scheduled on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at the North Kitsap School District.

Board Member Announcements

- Mr. O'Hara said he visited Blue Heron School on February 20, 2015.
- Mr. White attended the Maritime Discovery Schools presentation on February 18, 2015.
- Re-instituting a "What's Good in the District" item on Board meeting agendas was discussed.
- Ms. Daly said she had heard good comments about the new school lunch menu choices.

Executive Session

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. for approximately 25 minutes to discuss the performance of a public employee. The executive session was adjourned at 7:58. The regular meeting was reconvened at 7:58 and adjourned by consensus at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engle, Secretary

ATTEST: Holley Carlson, Board Chair

Wireless Devices Fact Sheet

Radiation-Emitting devices such as cell phones, cordless phones, WiFi routers, cellular antennas, baby monitors, RFID chips and 'smart' transmitting utility meters, operate near the radio frequency (RF) of microwave ovens and are often unregulated by any state or federal agency.¹

Fact 1

Human beings have innate electrical mechanisms for regulating heartbeat, allowing neurons to communicate, and to regulate many other biological functions. For this reason, electrical radio frequencies (RF), also called wireless radiation, from electronic wireless devices have the potential to interact with our biological functions.²

Fact 2

In May of 2011 the World Health Organization elevated exposure to wireless radiation, including WiFi, onto the Class 2 b list of Carcinogens.³

Fact 3

Reported symptoms from wireless radiation exposure include short-term memory loss, trouble concentrating, sleep disruption, headache, fatigue, dizziness, skin rashes, and changes in cardiac function⁴

Fact 4

Scientists have found DNA damage, abnormal behaviors and abnormal cell metabolism in mammals exposed to wireless radiation.⁵

Fact 5

Exposure to wireless radiation can be biologically addicting. Wireless radiation has been shown to increase the activity of endorphins and endogenous opioids which are the same compounds responsible for the biological addiction to opium, alcohol and morphine.⁶

Fact 6

At levels of exposure to wireless radiation well below current recommendations, children and adolescents exposed to radio frequencies showed abnormal behavior and fatigue that was significantly, positively correlated with rates of exposure. Exposure to wireless radiation is also implicated in anxiety and depression.⁷

Fact 7

Researchers have shown that exposure to wireless radiation decreases the body's ability to excrete heavy metals and they believe this is significant for children with Autism. In the same study researchers showed the efficiency of heavy metal detoxification increases dramatically when exposure to electro- magnetic radiation is eliminated.⁸

¹ Singer, Katie, *An Electronic Silent Spring, Facing the Dangers and Creating Safe Limits*, Portal Books, Massachusetts, 2014.

² Gazca, Mary, *Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) and Children*, St Catherine University, December 14, 2011.

³ American Academy of Environmental Medicine, *Letter to the Peel School District regarding installation of WiFi systems in the school district*, 2013, accessed at www.aaemonline.org, 2-23-2015.

⁴ Hardell, L and Sage, C., *Biological effects from electromagnetic field exposure and public exposure standards*, *Biomed Pharmacother.* 2008 Feb;62(2):104-9

⁵ Lai, Henry, Paper presented at the "Workshop on Possible Biological and Health Effects of RF Electromagnetic Fields", Mobile Phone and Health Symposium, Oct 25-28, 1998, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.

⁶ M. Paz de la Puente and A. Balmori, "Addiction to cell phones: Are there neurophysiologic mechanisms involved?", *Proyecto*, Vol. 61, 8-12, March 2007 (in English at emfacts.com)

⁷ See footnotes 1 and 2 above

⁸ T. Mariae and G. Carlo *Wireless Radiation in the Etiology and Treatment of Autism: Clinical Observations and Mechanisms*, *J Aust Coll Nutr and Env Med*, Vol 26, No. 2, August 2007.



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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ET Docket No. 13-84

Dear Federal Communications Commission Commissioners:

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine is writing to request that the FCC review radiofrequency (RF) exposure limits (reference is made to the FCC's NOI sections 48, 51, 52, 53, 56, 60, 65 and 69), recognize non-thermal effects of RF exposure (NOI sections 66 and 69), and lower limits of RF exposure to protect the public from the adverse health effects of radiofrequency emissions (NOI sections 48, 52, 54, 65 and 71).

Founded in 1965 as a non-profit medical association, the AAEM is an international association of physicians and scientists who study and treat the effects of the environment on human health. With an elite membership of highly trained physicians and clinicians, AAEM is committed to education, public awareness and research regarding Environmental Medicine.

It became clear to AAEM physicians that by the mid 1990's patients were experiencing adverse health reactions and disease as a result of exposure to electromagnetic fields. In the last five years with the advent of wireless devices, there has been an exponential increase in the number of patients with radiofrequency induced disease and hypersensitivity.

Numerous peer reviewed, published studies correlate radiofrequency exposure with a wide range of health conditions and diseases. (NOI sections 54, 59, 60 and 65) These include neurological and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's Disease, ALS, paresthesias, dizziness, headaches and sleep disruption as well as cardiac, gastrointestinal and immune disease, cancer, developmental and reproductive disorders, and electromagnetic sensitivity. The World Health Organization has classified RF emissions as a group 2 B carcinogen. This research is reviewed and cited in the following attached documents: *AAEM Electromagnetic and Radiofrequency Fields Effect on Human Health* and *AAEM Recommendations Regarding Electromagnetic and Radiofrequency Exposure*.

The scientific literature proves that non-thermal adverse effects of RF exposure exist and negatively impact health and physiology. New guidelines based on measurements of non-thermal effects and lowering limits of exposure are needed and critical to protect public health.

In fact, electromagnetic sensitivity and the health effects of low level RF exposure have already been acknowledged by the federal government. In 2002, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board stated:

"The Board recognizes...electromagnetic sensitivities may be considered disabilities under the ADA if they so severely impair the neurological, respiratory or other functions on an individual that it substantially limits one or more of the individual's major life activities"

Additionally, in 2005, the National Institute of Building Sciences, an organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1974, issued an Indoor Environmental Quality Report which concluded:

"For people who are electromagnetically sensitive, the presence of cell phones and towers, portable telephones, computers,... wireless devices, security and scanning equipment, microwave ovens, electric ranges and numerous other electrical appliances can make a building inaccessible."

By recognizing electromagnetic sensitivity, the federal government and affiliated organizations are clearly acknowledging the existence of non-thermal effects. The AAEM urges the FCC to recognize that non-thermal effects of RF exposure exist and cause symptoms and disease. (NOI sections 66 and 69) The AAEM also requests that the FCC base guidelines of RF exposure on measurements of non-thermal effects and lower the limits of RF exposure to protect the health of the public. (NOI sections 48, 52, 54, 65 and 71)

Sincerely ,



Amy L. Dean, DO, FAAEM, DABEM, DAOBIM
President



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To: Tony Pontes
Director of Education
Peel District School Board

From: The American Academy of Environmental Medicine
www.aaemonline.org

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) strongly supports the use of wired Internet connections.

The AAEM comprises Medical Doctors, Osteopaths, and PhD researchers focusing on the effects of environmental agents on human health. For forty years the Academy has trained Physicians to treat the most difficult patients who are often overlooked by our medical system, because the cause of their illness, rather than being caused by an infection or traditionally understood cause, is related to more basic underlying causes such as chemical, toxic metal, food or radiation exposures.

In May 2011 the World Health Organization elevated exposure to wireless radiation, including WiFi, onto the Class 2b list of Carcinogens.

There is consistent emerging science that shows people, especially children who are more vulnerable due to developing brains and thinner skulls, are affected by the increasing exposure to wireless radiation.

In September 2010, the Journal of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine-Fertility and Sterility, reported that only four hours of exposure to a standard laptop using WiFi caused DNA damage to human sperm.

In December 2012 the American Academy of Pediatrics- representing 60,000 pediatricians, wrote to Congress requesting it update the safety levels of microwave radiation exposure especially for children and pregnant women.

In 2010 Canada's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health heard three days of testimony from international scientists explaining why our national safety guideline (Safety Code 6) is out of date for the increasing exposure to wireless radiation in daily life. This guideline must not be enforced as the minimum standard for places where children spend long periods of time.

In a school setting, children are exposed to WiFi for an unprecedented period of time for their entire childhood. Some of these signals will be much more powerful

than is received at home, due to the need for the signals to go through walls, and serve multiple computers simultaneously. At home families may chose to turn it off, or avoid wireless completely. The school signals are dozens of times more powerful than standard café and restaurant systems.

To install this widespread wireless internet access system in Peel District schools risks a widespread public health hazard that the medical system is not yet prepared to address. Statistics show that you can expect to see an immediate reaction in 3% and delayed effects in 30%, including teachers.

It is better to exercise caution and substitute with a safe alternate such as a wired connection, which is not classified as a possible carcinogen. While more research is being conducted children must be protected. Wired technology is not only safer, it is also stronger and more secure.

While the debate ensues about the dangers of WiFi, cell phone towers and cell phones, it is the doctors who must deal with the inevitable health effects. Until we can determine why some develop symptoms and others do not, and some are debilitated for indeterminate amounts of time, we implore you to not take this risk, with the health of so many children whose parents have entrusted you to keep them as safe as possible while at school.

Respectfully,

The Executive Committee of the American Academy of Environmental Medicine

Cc: Janet McDougald,
Chair, Peel District School Board.