Meeting Summary for GoTeam Meeting - Mays HS - FY 25

From Meeting Summary with AI Companion <no-reply@zoom.us>
Date Mon 6/23/2025 5:59 PM

Meeting summary for GoTeam Meeting - Mays HS - FY 25 (06/23/2025)

Quick recap

The Benjamin E. Mays Go Team meeting focused on implementing a new cell phone policy at Mays High School, involving the use of Yondr pouches to create a distraction-free learning environment. The team discussed survey results, implementation strategies, and addressed concerns from staff, parents, and students regarding the new policy. The meeting also covered communication plans, cost estimates, and potential challenges in enforcing the policy, with an emphasis on improving student education and school climate.

Next steps

- Here are the action items from the meeting:
- Dr. Garner to meet with Yonder on Wednesday to discuss getting more unlocking mechanisms.
- Dr. Garner to schedule and communicate about 3 additional parent meetings - one for rising 9th and 10th graders, one for rising juniors and seniors, and one general meeting.
- Administrative team to implement a system for unlocking pouches for students with early dismissal or dual enrollment.
- PBIS team to develop incentives and activities for students during lunch periods without cell phones.
- Mr. Rivers and Mr. Boston to work on creating a video with SGA to promote the new cell phone policy.
- Administrative team to set up a process for approving special permissions for cell phone use on field trips or projects.
- Dr. Garner to follow up with Erica Long about district policies regarding permission slips for personal electronic devices.
- Administrative team to implement a system for collecting parent permission slips for personal electronic devices.

Summary

Benjamin E. Mays Go Team Meeting

The Benjamin E. Mays Go Team meeting was called to order by Kimberly Jenkins, who led the team through the agenda and roll call. The team approved the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting. The meeting focused on discussing policy for the upcoming school year, though specific details were not provided in the transcript. The team also addressed the need for a quorum, noting that students were not present as they had graduated.

Distraction-Free Learning Environment Initiative

Ramon Garner discussed the need to create a distraction-free learning environment for students, highlighting the potential for improved performance if social media and cell phones were not such distractions. He mentioned conversations with Dr. Betsy Bockman, who shared Midtown's experience with Yondr pouches, which were used to manage student electronic devices. Ramon planned to introduce the concept to Mays High School, with assistant principals Boston and Rivers preparing a plan and surveying teachers and families. Dr. Bockman shared her experience with the Yondr pouches, noting their success in reducing distractions and improving teacher morale, and emphasized that the process was simple and manageable.

Cell Phone Policy School Success

Elizabeth reported significant improvements in school climate and teacher morale since implementing a policy restricting cell phone use during school hours. She noted a decrease in discipline issues and better student-teacher interactions, with students now engaging in more face-to-face communication rather than using their phones. Ramon Garner introduced the next speakers, who would present district policy and data regarding teacher and family feedback, followed by plans for implementing the policy at Mays High School.

Mays High School Cell Phone Policy

Ramon Rivers discussed the cell phone policy at Mays High School, explaining that while students can possess phones with parental consent, they must be kept off and out of sight during school hours. He outlined the disciplinary consequences for violations, including warnings, confiscations, and bans, as well as fines for unauthorized recording or use during testing. Ramon emphasized that parents must sign a yearly consent form, and stricter penalties apply if they do not, while also noting that APS is not responsible for lost or damaged devices.

Cell Phone Policy Survey Results

James Balson presented survey results on cell phone usage and policy preferences from both staff and parents at Mays High School. Staff surveys showed 88% reported regular cell phone use during class, with 94% supporting a structured phone policy, while parents surveyed indicated 52% were aware of in-class phone use and 47% viewed it as a learning barrier. The discussion highlighted staff needs for consistent enforcement and clear storage plans, as well as parent concerns about emergency contact capabilities, which led to the development of a structured contact plan.

Mays High Device Security Protocol

Ramon Rivers and James Bawlson presented the Mays High School electronic device protocol, which aims to enhance student safety, security, and maintain a distraction-free learning environment. The

protocol involves using Yonder pouches for securing electronic devices during arrival and dismissal, with designated entry points and staff-assisted storage procedures. Non-compliance may result in device confiscation, while emergency unlocking requires administrative approval. The policy also allows for the surrender of larger electronic devices, with strict adherence to ensure a safe and focused academic atmosphere.

Student Device Pouch Policy Implementation

The meeting focused on implementing a new policy involving student pouches for devices, with James Bawlson explaining the expected increase in insubordination referrals during the transition period and outlining staff training and PBIS incentives for compliance. Ramon Rivers detailed the communication strategy, including stakeholder surveys, staff training, parent town halls, and an SGA-promoted video initiative. They discussed frequently asked questions, such as contacting students and handling medical emergencies, and clarified that lost or damaged pouches would incur a $25-$32 fee. Ramon Rivers and Dr. Garner provided cost estimates for 1,500 pouches at $25 each, totaling $37,500, with funding expected from the fiscal year 2026 school security grant.

Cell Phone Management Protocol

Ramon Rivers explained the cell phone management system, detailing that students with early dismissals or dual enrollment will have designated staff members to unlock devices at the front door, with backup staff positioned by Miss Arnold's station and Dr. Garner's office. He clarified that students on full-day trips must turn in their devices, but special permission can be requested through Academy administrators for specific projects requiring device access. Pamela asked about substitute teachers and unlocking devices, to which Ramon responded that substitutes won't have access, and designated staff or hall monitors will unlock devices during 4th period.

Student Phone Usage Policy Discussion

The meeting focused on addressing student phone usage during school hours, with Ramon Rivers and Mr. Boston sharing initiatives to engage students during lunch through activities like outdoor communication and board games. Ramon Garner emphasized that the phone restrictions are not punitive but necessary to reduce distractions and improve student education, noting that social media issues and disputes are often exacerbated by phone use during school hours.

Yonder Pouches School Implementation Plan

Ramon Garner discussed the implementation of Yonder pouches in schools, emphasizing the need for community support and communication in case of emergencies. He mentioned upcoming parent meetings for different grade levels and a special pouch system for students with unique situations. Elizabeth shared information about incentive rewards previously used, which Ramon Garner indicated would be incorporated into the new system. The conversation ended with thanks to attendees and a brief discussion about personal electronic device policies and permission slips.

AI-generated content may be inaccurate or misleading. Always check for accuracy.

Please rate the accuracy of this summary. feedback good feedback bad

Share summary   Edit