

## Town Meeting

### Addendum to 11-15-12 Mtg

#### Proposed Revision to Laptop Loan Policy:

If the student's most recent infraction is more than one calendar year old year old, it is not held against them. Since this is a revision to the original policy, it would require a 2/3 majority to pass. We are bringing it to TM this week for input and discussion, and possibly next week as a motion.

#### History:

In the spring of 2010, Theresa thought, "wouldn't it be interesting to loan laptops to students to use wherever they need?" She began a pilot loan program in May of that year with 12 laptops. The program was successful - almost too much so (the wear and tear on the laptops has been "extreme" and they saw over 5,000 circulations last school year alone). Theresa passed the original policy through Town Meeting and has come back twice to revise the program as different issues have arisen (getting the necessary 2/3 majority needed): once to set the "three strikes" policy (first violation, a verbal warning; second violation, collateral must be supplied; third violation, blocked for one calendar year) and once to allow her to shut the program down between 3:15 and 3:30 each day, depending on her discretion.

#### What would the motion mean in terms of students? Examples:

- Student Joe King returned a laptop late on 1/11/10, then left a laptop unattended on 5/8/11. His violations are "cleared"
- Student Dino Saurus kept a laptop overnight on 9/14/11 and then returned a laptop late on 3/17/12. His violations are not cleared, and he has to provide collateral through 3/17/13, assuming he doesn't accumulate another violation.

#### Why do this?

We understand that students, as growing human beings, mature over time and most likely become more responsible as they age.

#### Why not do this?

- A growing number of students have violations several years apart.
- This is a logistical pain in the patooty for Theresa, who already maintains a fairly complicated chart of violations and commensurate circulation notes.
- If the point of education is training for the real world, this doesn't match. In the real world, driver's violations last five years, and financial boo-boos last ten.
- No matter how many times we revise this policy, it is unlikely we will find a way to make everyone happy.

#### By the numbers:

- There are currently 120 students with laptop loan violations: 73 with first violation status, 36 with second violation status, 11 with third violation status
- This change would drop 28 students from first violation status, 5 students from second violation and 0 from third violation (8 of the 11 were this fall, the other 3 last Spring).

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