

My name is Jarrett Austin, this email is for public comment and my question is, will there be a district wide policy in regards to cell phone and device usage?

I really wish I could be there to ask this question in person as this is an issue that is very important to me. When I was there in June to ask for the board's guidance enacting some cell phone guidelines for schools, myself and the group that I was with were dismissed as a group of white people from the west side of the district (even though I am a person of color). That Black families in the district wouldn't want to be told how to use their phones to communicate with their family.

Well silly me- earlier this week my wife, who is the PTSA president at Geiger shared with me an email from senator Yasmin Trudeau touting an announcement from the OSPI

OSPI NEWS RELEASE: Majority of Washington School Districts Restricting Cell Phones and Smart Devices at School

And nestled inside was a quote from Chris Reykdal I found interesting

“A year ago, I challenged school district leaders across the state to adopt a policy to restrict student access to cell phones during instructional time,”

Again, I wish I could be there in person to ask you if you are aware that the state superintendent of public instruction takes the issue of phone (and device) usage in school this seriously? Not just a bunch of west side white parents.

I know that schools like Foss and SAMI are working to implement policy but if anyone thinks that this particular board is responsible for it, they are not! And if they are going to make a district wide policy I hope they're getting outside help.