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E-cigarettes banned from Glen Rock school property

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The Glen Rock Board of Education has amended the school district's smoking prohibition policy to ban the use of electronic cigarettes on school property.

Trustees present at the July 7 meeting voted unanimously for a resolution enacting the restriction.

Prior to passage, BOE Governance Committee chair Rona McNabola told trustees that while the e-cigarette ban was originally contemplated for addition to the district's substance abuse policy - also under review - counsel had advised that it be written instead into the separate smoking prohibition guideline, which now includes specific language defining both tobacco products and "electronic smoking devices."

Under the policy, "tobacco product" is defined to include, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco and all other forms of smokeless tobacco, rolling papers and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products "excluding quit products." It further defines "tobacco use" as including "smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products."

The policy defines "electronic smoking device" as an electronic device that can be used to deliver nicotine or other substances to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo or pipe.

The regulation guideline accompanying the policy notes that use of all such products is prohibited in schools and administrative offices, on outdoor school property, and in school-owned and other approved vehicles used to transport pupils to and from school or school activities.

It also applies to off-school property during any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function, "such as a field trip to athletic events, where pupils are under the jurisdiction of the school district."

While school officials did not indicate that the incident played a role in the policy

amendment, they acknowledged this week that there was one in-school suspension last term related to the use of an electronic cigarette by a Glen Rock High School student.

The policy authorizes building principals to report violations, in accordance with the law, to the municipal Board of Health, with pupils and district employees subject to "appropriate disciplinary measures."

However, it also states that "exceptions to the smoking prohibition may be made for classroom instruction," and that "such exceptions require the approval of the building principal and/or the chief school administrator (school superintendent)."

<http://www.northjersey.com/news/education/e-cigarettes-banned-from-glen-rock-school-property-1.1062941#sthash.9FKJtDtP.dpuf>