

11. On/Off Switches for WiFi Routers and Protocol of Use

Submitted by: Richmond District Parents' Association (Richmond DPAC, SD 38)

Be it resolved that

BCCPAC calls on Boards of Education:

1. to provide on/off switches to WiFi routers; and
2. to establish a protocol of use that
 - (i) WiFi routers and WiFi/3G functions of computers/laptops/tablets are to be turned on only when they are needed for access to the internet via the wireless network; and
 - (ii) Bluetooth function is to be turned on only if it is needed for accessing other Bluetooth-enabled devices.

Note:

1. and 2.(i) are for schools in which WiFi has been installed.
- 2.(i) and 2.(ii) are for all schools with computers, laptops and tablets that have WiFi/3G/Bluetooth functions..

Rationale:

1. To reduce energy consumption:

(a) Currently all WiFi routers are left on 24/7 whether the wireless internet is accessed or not. Beacon signals from wireless routers pulse continuously and cause unnecessary consumption of energy during hours when their service is not required. Providing on/off switches to routers - similar to on/off switches for lighting - is a simple way to conserve energy on an ongoing basis.

(b) For desktop computers, laptops and tablets, when the WiFi/Bluetooth/3G functions are turned on, even if the user is not accessing the internet or other Bluetooth devices, the radiofrequency signals of these functions are emitted continuously by the computers/laptops/tablets. This is a drain to the power supply with no practical benefit. Even when the computers/laptops/tablets are on standby mode, the WiFi/Bluetooth/3G signals don't stop until these functions are turned off. Providing a protocol to have the WiFi/Bluetooth/3G functions turned off when they are not needed is a good practice for energy conservation. http://youtu.be/snt2uaQd_Ps

2. To reduce exposure to radiofrequency-electromagnetic radiation:

(a) (2011) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO) has classified "Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields...emitted by wireless communication devices" as Type 2B Possible Carcinogen (possible cancer risk to humans). The WHO report concluded that "additional research is important" and advised the public, particularly young adults and children, to "take pragmatic measures to reduce exposure". This classification includes WiFi radiation. http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2011/pdfs/pr208_E.pdf <http://goo.gl/77zt>
<http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Classification/index.php> <http://tinyurl.com/7fync2w>

(b) (2011) Health Canada "encourages parents to reduce children's RF (radiofrequency) exposure... since children are typically more sensitive" and "there is currently a lack of scientific information regarding the potential health impacts of

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cell phones on children". <http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2011/13548a-eng.php>

(c) (2012) The American Academy of Paediatrics - 60,000 Paediatricians and Paediatric Surgeons: "The differences in bone density and the amount of fluid in a child's brain compared to an adult's brain could allow children to absorb greater quantities of RF energy deeper into their brains than adults... the current exposure limits may not reflect the latest research on RF energy". <http://citizensforsafetechnology.org/Letter-from-the-American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-to-USCongress,24,2818>

(d) (2012-2013) The American Academy of Environmental Medicine: "Adverse health effects, such as learning disabilities, altered immune responses, headaches, etc. from wireless radio frequency fields do exist and are well documented in the scientific literature." "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." "Multiple studies correlate radiofrequency exposure with diseases such as cancer, neurological disease, reproductive disorders, immune dysfunction, and electromagnetic hypersensitivity... The fact that radiofrequency exposure causes neurological damage has been documented repeatedly... Other neurological and cognitive disorders such as headaches, dizziness, tremors, decreased memory and attention, autonomic nervous system dysfunction, decreased reaction times, sleep disturbances and visual disruptions have been reported to be statistically significant in multiple epidemiological studies with radiofrequency exposure occurring non-locally." <http://aaemonline.org/wifischool.html> <http://aaemonline.org/images/LettertoLAUSD.pdf> http://aaemonline.org/emf_rf_position.html

(e) (2013) United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), representing over 40,000 teachers and other workers in LAUSD adopted a resolution that "UTLA will adopt by current National NEA Policy for Environmentally Safe Schools which states that all employees and stakeholders should be informed when there are changes in their exposure to environmental hazards including electromagnetic radiation and that all stakeholders and the public should be notified of any actual and potential hazards. UTLA will advocate for technological solutions that maintain technology upgrades while not increasing employees exposure to electromagnetic radiation."

(f) (2013) The BC Teachers' Federation adopted a resolution at their AGM: "The BCTF supports members who are suffering from Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity by ensuring that their medical needs are accommodated in the workplace". Electromagnetic Hypersensitive teachers and students will benefit from an overall reduction of unnecessary RF exposure in schools.

Destination:

Ministry of Education
BC School Trustees Association
BC School Superintendents' Association
BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association
BC Teachers' Federation

For more information about resolution (11), please contact:
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Nominations & Resolutions



BCCPAC Annual General Meeting

**Saturday
May 4th, 2013**

Annual General Meeting Location:
Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel
5911 Minoru Boulevard
Richmond, BC
(604) 273-6336