

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY AND SCHOOL BUSES

The Regional School Unit #34 Board recognizes the schools' continuing responsibility to maintain order and an appropriate learning environment in and around the school to ensure the safety of staff and students. After carefully balancing the need for safety with student and staff interests in privacy, the School Board supports the use of video surveillance cameras on designated school buses, school grounds and in areas of common use within buildings. Areas of common use include, but may not be limited to, parking lots, school entrances, hallways, cafeterias, libraries, and gymnasiums.

Video surveillance cameras will be located and used for the following purposes: (1) To assist in efforts to promote and maintain the safety of students, staff and other users of school property; (2) To assist in protecting school property and the property of others; (3) To deter unsafe, destructive, or other improper conduct; and (4) To increase the likelihood of identification of individuals who may violate school policies and/or commit crimes. The cameras may be used by authorized personnel to monitor activity during the school day and monitor activities in and around the school property at any time.

Notice of use of video cameras for safety and security purposes will be provided to students, parents, and staff in appropriate handbooks on an annual basis. Appropriate signage, indicating the use of video cameras, will be displayed at the main entrance of each Regional School Unit #34 building.

Violations of School Committee policies/procedures and school rules viewed or recorded on the video surveillance system shall be addressed in accordance with the applicable School Committee policies and/or school rules. In addition, evidence of illegal activities may be referred to law enforcement authorities. (In regard to such video recordings, the school system will comply with all applicable provisions of state and federal law concerning staff and student records.)

The Superintendent is responsible for the development of administrative procedures regarding the use of the video surveillance system.

First Reading October 15, 2015

Approved: November 18, 2015