

From: Waggoner, Mary
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To: EPS.MailList
Subject: Corrections to Everett Herald story about video security system
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...NewsLinks

A Web-based newsletter for the staff of Everett Public Schools

July 1, 2013 (*NewsLinks* articles are [archived on DocuShare](#))

IN THIS ISSUE

CORRECTION – to information in July 1 issue of the *Everett Herald*

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE MISREPRESENTS VIDEO SECURITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES, school board will consider at regular board meeting on July 2.

What are the facts?

This fall, the district's data hardware center will be moved from the basement of the more-than-100-year-old Longfellow building into the new Community Resource Center on Broadway. At the same time, new video safety equipment being "concept tested" for future use in schools will be installed at the CRC; the hardware for that equipment will be housed in the district CRC data center.

The school board will consider draft [procedures](#) to policy 6505 about video security systems on July 2 at the regular school board meeting.

What was misrepresented in the article?

There is no *surveillance room* or surveillance staff to monitor video cameras in the district. The *data center room* will securely house all of the district's technology operations, including emergency response systems, computer networking and telephone and the hardware for security cameras.

Security video equipment at the CRC and in schools will be publicized with signs and will be installed only in public areas. Safety video equipment will not be in classrooms, locker rooms, or bathrooms.

District security video will not be used for teacher evaluations.

Video data falls under the same legal public records requirements as public documents and will be handled according to the law. Each public records request is handled on a case-by-case basis to ensure transparency and safeguard personally identifiable information as allowed by state law.

How long has the district been considering district wide safety video equipment?

In 2010, voters approved a six-year *Building Repair and Technology Levy*. In that levy was \$1.2 million for updated video security systems for district schools.

In preparation for the 2010 ballot measure, district Instructional Technology (IT) staff researched other districts' video safety plans, equipment and policies. Included in that research phase of four years ago, was an IT staff visit to Bethel School District, which is approximately the same size as Everett Public Schools. Staff traveled to see that district's system in operation and learn what worked in Bethel and what mistakes to avoid. Research into the most cost-effective and secure systems has continued. Staff have worked with law enforcement entities and procedural experts to ensure the highest level of privacy for those in schools **and** the highest level of safety.

Has the district used video safety cameras in the past?

Yes. Today, the district has 82 cameras in public areas of schools and 112 cameras in school buses. The cameras vary in age; the technology is not consistent. Some cameras work; others do not. Some are repairable; some are not. Today, some schools are without video security systems.

How will the new video security system be different?

All cameras will be digital – no more VCR or black and white tape. Law enforcement and administrators authorized by the superintendent will have secure access to log in to the system to review digital data for specific incident times and locations. If a worse-case scenario were to occur – that is if an intruder were in a building intending harm – law enforcement could log in to the video data to quickly respond to an intruder situation and secure the building.

The new security cameras will be “new” technology and all the same technology. The existing 82 cameras are not the same models, do not use the same software, vary in their reliability and user interface; some require individual, inconsistent and

expensive wiring and installation. The new camera data will be accessible at a school by authorized and trained individuals and accessible at the CRC centrally – again ONLY by authorized and trained individuals who have a need and authority to view.

What is the timeline for the new video security equipment?

Approving a video security policy and reviewing procedure for using such equipment are early steps in the board's process to verify district plans to ensure the highest level of privacy for those in schools **and** the highest level of safety. Policy and procedure 6505 being considered by the board on July 2 is in preparation for this security camera roll-out.

In early July, the district plans to ask for bids on video safety cameras to be installed at the CRC (opening in October). The CRC is considered a "concept test" site for the type of cameras and system that will then be rolled out to the schools.

In March 2014, after the concept test results for the CRC system, the district will go to bid for a K-12 school video system funded by the 2010 *Building Repair and Technology Levy*. Installation of those school safety systems will start in the spring of 2014, with the goal of finishing all the schools in November 2014. The plans are for approximately 400-600 security cameras in public areas of K-12 schools district-wide.