

EXHIBIT A

Main Line Media News (mainlinemedianews.com)

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All screenshot images nixed for LMSD

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By Richard Ilgenfritz

In a 180-degree reversal, Lower Merion School District officials say they will now ban staff from taking screenshots to track lost or stolen computers.

Two weeks ago school officials said staff would still be able to take screenshots from stolen computers, under new guidelines being developed. Under that plan, the district would still have been banned from taking screenshots on computers not reported stolen.

The district's solicitor, Ken Roos, said they have had a change of mind and will ban the practice completely. A court order already disallows the district from taking webcam snapshots on student-issued computers.

Under new guidelines that the district's Policy Committee is drafting, officials have decided to ban the use of screenshots before or after a computer is reported stolen.

In February the family of Blake Robbins, a Harriton High School student, sued claiming the district illegally spied on him at home. The district has since admitted it had security features installed on the student-issued laptops that allowed some of its staff to take webcam photos, record screenshots and log IP addresses on computers.

Roos, during a meeting of the Policy Committee last week, said that he recently spoke with Hank Hockeimer, the attorney representing the district in the webcam case.

"He recommended that we not use screenshots at all," Roos told the members of the board.

According to Roos, Hockeimer believed that using the screenshot feature of its new security system could be a legal problem.

School-district officials have been changing their policies on computers for the past couple of months. This is because of Judge Jan E. DuBois' order in the webcam case.

In May, DuBois ordered the district to revise its laptop policies by Sept. 1. The district was ordered to develop policies dealing with several issues. Those include the distribution, maintenance and use of laptops; the privacy of student data in laptops; and training district staff members on privacy.

The district also has to develop policies on to how and why computers are remotely accessed.

Along with the policy changes, the board is also developing letters for parents that outline their rights and responsibilities regarding the computers. The letters also include a space for the insurance costs families must pay for the use of the computers. Since a dollar amount has not been decided on, those spaces are blank.

There are also several agreement forms that parents and students will have to sign.

In last Thursday night's three-hour meeting, the board members who were present had the chance to review, make suggestions and ask questions about the proposed changes. Besides updating the policies related to the acceptable use of the LMSD-NET and district-issued laptops, the board also reviewed employee laptop security procedures and training; a policy that relates to remote access of computers, monitoring and tracking of district laptops; and another policy on the care of school property.

The policies are expected to go to the full board at Monday night's regular business meeting for a first reading. There will be another Policy Committee meeting Aug. 5 and the new policies are expected to be adopted at the Aug. 23 board business meeting.

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