Fairfield Public Schools Board of Education Policy Guide

Personnel – Certified / Non-Certified

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

4118.4(a) 4218.4

This policy also serves as the required posting notice.

Pursuant to the authority of Public Act 98-142, the Board of Education hereby gives notice to all its employees of the potential use of electronic monitoring in its workplace. While the Board may not actually engage in the use of electronic monitoring, it reserves the right to do so when determined to be appropriate by the Board or the Superintendent of Schools at their discretion.

"Electronic monitoring," as defined by Public Act 98-142, means the collection of information on school district premises concerning employees' activities or communications, by any means other than direct observation of the employees. Electronic monitoring includes the use of a computer, telephone, wire, radio, camera, electromagnetic, photo-electronic, or photo-optical systems. The law does not cover the collection of information (A) for security purposes in any common areas of the Board of Education premises which are open to the public, or (B) which is prohibited under other state or federal law.

All staff members are made aware of the following:

- Monitoring may be used for assuring compliance with professional codes of conduct, Board Policy, or Administrative Regulations or established practices.
- Virtually, all electronic devices retain a record of each use and the information about that use may be recoverable.
- Electronic communications may not be secure and therefore may not be an appropriate means by which to communicate confidential or sensitive information.
- Freedom of Information Regulations apply to information maintained and/or communicated electronically and as to information maintained or communicated on other media.

The following specific types of electronic monitoring may be used by the school district in its facilities:

- Monitoring of e-mail and other components of the school district's computer system for compliance with policies.
- Video surveillance in school buildings and on school grounds except where prohibited by law for security purposes.
- Video surveillance on all school transportation vehicles.

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- Telephone monitoring (landlines, cell or wireless) for quality control and performance assessment.
- Monitoring of electromagnetic card access system for security purposes.

The law also provides that, where electronic monitoring may produce evidence of misconduct, the school district may use electronic monitoring without prior notice when the Board and/or Superintendent have reasonable grounds to believe employees of the school system are engaged in conduct that (1) violates the law, (2) violates the legal rights of the Board of Education or other employees, (3) or creates a hostile work environment.

Questions about electronic monitoring in the workplace should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools or members of the administrative staff.

Adopted 8/27/2004 Revised and Adopted 1/29/2013