

Dear East High School Families:

We are communicating with you today to provide an update on our investigation into the discovery of potential evidence of a concealed camera being previously installed at East High School.

On January 8, 2021, an East High School Security Assistant discovered what they believed could be evidence of a concealed recording device, hidden in a coach's office at a previous point in time. As was provided in our initial communication to families on this matter, MMSD's response to the discovery included referring the matter for investigation by the City of Madison Police Department (MPD), as well as hiring an external investigative team (MWH Law Group LLP) to conduct an in-depth internal investigation on behalf of the MMSD community.

MPD's lead investigator recently informed us the law enforcement investigation into the East camera discovery (case number 21-8167), has concluded (based on their findings): "we do not feel that any crime has been committed nor was there any intent to commit a crime, and the case is now closed."

The MPD investigation provided information relative to district concerns about the potential violation of protocols and policy by staff. Moreover, the investigation provided additional information relative to timeline, purpose and installation, while illuminating information about the potential installment and removal of an additional camera.

The MPD investigation found the purpose for the installation of concealed cameras was to monitor the work activities of an East custodian who was suspected of sleeping during night-shift work hours. Both spaces were chosen for camera placement due to them containing furniture conducive for sleeping. Information from the investigation reveals the cameras were angled in such a way to only capture the specified furniture and not capture any individuals in immediate proximity. After two weeks of monitoring during the custodian's work hours provided no results, the cameras were disabled. Although disconnected, the devices remained physically in place before their final removal in June 2020. The MPD investigation also concluded there were no existing video files of footage taken by the cameras during the time of their placement.

The use of a camera in this way is in direct violation of district policy 6702, covering the use of surveillance cameras in our schools. The request and subsequent approval of these concealed devices should never have occurred. Their installation is not in alignment with our values as a school district. As such, the district will await the conclusion of our internal investigation with MWH Law Group LLP, after which we will decide what corrective actions are appropriate moving forward.

We are disheartened by the additional stress this situation has caused. We will continue holding the safety of our students and staff as our highest priority. We have in place a comprehensive support plan to address the needs of students, staff and families. To access this support, please call **608-204-1603**.

Please be advised, we take these matters very seriously. Once our internal investigation concludes, we will share an update with our school community.

Sincerely,

Carlton D. Jenkins, Ph.D.  
Superintendent, MMSD