

## Snapchat Investigation of September 13, 2018

### Background

John Fanelli called to report a parent had contacted him and was concerned about a snapchat image her son had received. After a brief discussion, I informed him I would call the parent.

I phoned parent J W approximately 2:00pm after dismissal of students. Parent JW was agitated and accusatory. I attempted to gather the information and responded that I needed to investigate her concern and afford the teacher due process. See statements from Andrews, Neuenfeldt.

I communicated via email to Mrs. W the immediate findings and the action plan. Attached hereto and incorporated herein for reference.

Mrs. W responded via email in which I emailed her back several hours later to let her know I was out of the office that day and gave her an alternative contact if she needed immediate assistance. This was an email not an automated response.

I attempted to phone Mrs. W on Monday for follow up regarding her concern. There was no answer and I chose to not leave a voicemail. I phoned again during the day and then called the additional number provided. I made telephone contact with Mr. W and discussed the entire event. He seemed satisfied with the steps that were taken to safeguard his son. I asked if he would like me to reach out to Mrs. W as well. He said yes and we discussed her availability would not be until after 4:00pm that day. I let him know I would not be able to call after 4:00 but I would call the following morning. Later that day I received Mrs. W's formal complaint and ceased any further communication.

### Investigation

Interviewed Shelley Tincher who was completely cooperative. Spoke to multiple students who had received the snapchat image at the same time student J W did. Randomly selected several students from a list of 20+ that had received the streak snap.

### Findings

Student J W initiated a streak snapchat request to Mrs. Tincher. Mrs. Tincher responded to his request by sending a picture of her face with an animal ears filter that included freckles and made up eyes. It was determined that this was a common practice called a streak snap where the senders attempt to keep the "streak" alive for as many consecutive days as possible by sending, i.e. "selfies" with filters, locations, inanimate objects. The reply went to J W and a long list of other recipients including both current and former students of Mrs. Tincher. While interviewing Mrs. Tincher she received another streak snap request from student J W with a picture of a car door handle with a red "S" for

streak. While in my presence Mrs. Tincher removed J from her list of contacts and ceased and desisted from any further communication with the student. Of the multiple students that were interviewed that had received the same image on the streak snap not one had any concerns regarding the nature and content of the "snap".

### Conclusion

Based on the investigation there was no intent or occurrence of interacting inappropriately with the student. The communication was not inappropriate. The snapchat was not private or secretive but was disseminated to multiple students. The snapchat was not initiated by Mrs. Tincher but was a response to the student's request. The practice of using snapchat as a social media format has been stopped. No disciplinary action whatsoever is appropriate in this case. Mrs. Tincher is a phenomenal teacher who deeply cares for her students.

Investigated by Paul Peacock, Principal  
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