



Regional School District No. 14 Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

Jody Ian Goeler, Superintendent
5 Minortown Road – PO Box 469
Woodbury, Connecticut 06798

Telephone: 203 263-4339 Fax: 203 263-0372

jgoeler@ctreg14.org

www.ctreg14.org

OUR POSITION

Regional School District 14 takes the position that while it is obviously critical to block specific categories of websites as required by law (e.g., pornography, etc.), the blocking of otherwise appropriate websites, regardless of political or religious viewpoints, is WRONG.

OUR CONTENT FILTERING TECHNOLOGY

The content filtering appliance used by Region 14 (Dell's SonicWALL) is the same one used in many other school districts throughout the state. Web filtering and the policies enforced by this technology are essential protections which must be applied uniformly and fairly. In that light, the following conclusion and follow up actions are being taken concurrently:

CONCLUSION

On Region 14's computers, some websites were blocked while others were not. The Board of Education, Administration, and Technology Director have been working with Dell SonicWALL to identify the root cause for this. We now understand this was a function of how the parameters were set in the filtering criteria, and we are confident it has been remedied. Specifically, our filtering criteria allowed websites that were "Not Categorized" to be accessed, which has since been changed and these have now been added to the list of blocked categories. We will report in more detail regarding the filtering categories at the next Board of Education meeting, and the hyperlink below provided by the technology supplier provides additional helpful information.

<http://en.community.dell.com/dell-blogs/direct2dell/b/direct2dell/archive/2014/06/19/site-categorization-in-dell-sonicwall-content-filtering-service.aspx>

ACTION #1

The Nonnewaug High School Principal and the Director of Technology will put in place an expedited process for approving the "turning on" of blocked but appropriate sites consistent with the Acceptable Use Policy (#6165) until such time as this situation is satisfactorily resolved.

ACTION #2

Any student or faculty member who encounters difficulty, delays, or resistance regarding the “turning on” of a blocked site will be afforded time at the next Board of Education meeting to escalate the issue.

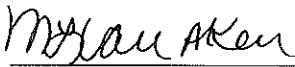
ACTION #3

This subject will be placed on the Region 14 Board of Education Agenda and reported upon at each regular meeting going forward until it is resolved. Actions will include but not be limited to re-examining Board of Education Policies and associated Administrative Regulations, as well as documenting the process of updating web filtering criteria on a regular basis and updating the district on any such changes in the future.

The Board of Education appreciates that this situation was brought to our attention by a student, and we respectfully ask the community, staff, and students for their patience as we diligently work to fully resolve this matter.



John E. Chapman, Board Chair



Maryanne Van Aken, Vice Chair