

Mark Holcomb

From: Tania Moody [tania@hprnetwork.com]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 9:56 AM
To: Mark Holcomb (Levelland ISD); Kelly Baggett (Levelland ISD); Kenny Berry (Levelland ISD)
Subject: FW: Has our school system put any rules and guidelines in place about cyberbullying?
Importance: High

Forwarding you both an email I received (proactive notification) from a middle school parent.

Tania

Tania Moody

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"All of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon - instead of enjoying the roses blooming outside our windows today." Dale Carnegie

From: Lopez, Alma F [mailto:alopez@southplainscollege.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 9:40 AM
To: L.M.S. P.I. Club
Subject: Has our school system put any rules and guidelines in place about cyberbullying?

This is becoming more and more common. At SPC where I work we just had a major incident because of Facebook and wondered if LISD has guidelines and rules in place to take care of this type of bullying. Thanks for all the work and time you have invested in our children this year.

Alma Lopez

Mother of 6th grader and 4th grader

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Is YouTube video cyberbullying?

February 18, 2010 by Carol Warner

Posted in: [Legal News](#)

The line between protecting students and respecting speech rights is blurrier than ever – thanks to a recent court decision that baffled school officials. But the ruling's fine print explains why the school lost.

Here's what happened:

In California, an eighth-grade student complained that she was being teased at school after classmates posted a video of her on YouTube. In it, her classmates badmouthed her, calling her a “brat” and a “slut.”

School officials investigated, and the student who posted the video was suspended for two days. Then the suspended student sued, claiming the school violated her speech rights.

The school argued the video caused a disruption at school. It asked the court to dismiss the claim.

But the judge refused, noting the student only missed a little bit of class time. Just because “another student takes offense” doesn't mean this out-of-school speech caused a substantial disruption, ruled the court. In order to prove the video caused a disruption, the school had to provide more evidence.

The court also pointed out another problem: The school *could have* regulated “off-campus speech that causes a material and substantial disruption under the *Tinker* standard,” *if* the school warned students that they could be disciplined for it in the school policy. But this school's policy didn't do that.

In light of increased cyberbullying problems, do you think the court made the right call? Let us know what you think in the comments section below.