

# Watchung schools look to update surveillance policy

By **ERIC HOSTETTLER**  
STAFF WRITER

**WATCHUNG** – The Board of Education for the grades K-8 school district is updating its policy on electronic surveillance on school grounds.

The policy, which was originally adopted in October 2016, is being amended to reflect changes required by state mandates, board member Ellyn Margulies said prior to introducing an ordinance to amend the policy on Thursday, May 10.

Changes made to the pol-

icy include the addition of a paragraph regarding the board entering a “memorandum of understanding” with local law enforcement authorities so they may view any security footage in case of any criminal activity.

“The bulk of the changes are related to changes in applicable law,” Board President Margo Langer in a Friday, May 11, email. “The policy is part of the security measures implemented in our district, which are continuously reviewed and tweaked as necessary. Security remains an extremely im-

portant priority of the district.”

The policy requires the district post signage in a “prominent, public place” in school buildings where cameras are used. It also states that students and parents must be notified of the use of security cameras on school grounds.

In addition, the policy states that any content produced by the surveillance devices will be considered as “student records” and kept confidential. If the content becomes the subject of a disciplinary proceeding, then it can be used as evidence.