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THINGS TO DO IN NATICK

Natick tapes Obama's speech for future viewing

Posted September 8, 2009 09:30 AM

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By **Matt Rocheleau** *Globe Correspondent*

Natick schools did not show President Barack Obama's back-to-school speech to students live on Tuesday, but instead taped it for possible showing at a later date, according to the superintendent's office.

School officials in Waltham took the same approach. Parents there were notified Monday evening through a recorded phone message from the superintendent that the speech would be taped for a "possible viewing in the future."

To clear up confusion which stemmed from that message, Waltham superintendent Peter Azar held a press conference Tuesday after school.

"At no time did we say it would not be viewed ... Essentially what we did was we went on the fact that we had little information and made plans to follow up in a way that was appropriate," said Azar.

In Needham and Newton the superintendents left the decision of whether or not to show the speech up to the discretion of each school's principal. Wellesley aired the speech to all students unless the students, or their parents, had requested otherwise.

Jonathan Pizzi, Needham High School's principal, said he left it up to each teacher to decide whether or not to show the president's speech in class. He didn't know how many teachers chose to do so; but no one – neither parents nor teachers – expressed any concern to him about the issues that seemed to shake up other school districts. The only real questions he fielded from teachers were logistical, he said, because the speech overlapped two lunch periods.

Globe Staff reporter Lisa Kocian and Globe Correspondent Jessica Rudis contributed to this report.

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2 COMMENTS SO FAR...

1. As a Natick resident I find this timid approach totally ridiculous and pretty offensive. For goodness sake, no matter what you think, he is the PRESIDENT. The students have to be protected from what he might say as though he were some kind of whackjob who might sound off inappropriately? I mean, he just wanted to tell the kids to stay in school and do their homework -- OH EM GEE.

Posted by [natick resident](#) September 11, 09 11:44 AM

2. I voted for Obama and support him, but I don't think it was wise to deliver the speech during the very first few days of school -- when teachers' hands

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are full and kids are just getting adjusted. I respect the decision to tape the speech.

Posted by Tim A. September 11, 09 05:53 PM

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