

Local Search Site Search

 GO

HOME	TODAY'S GLOBE	NEWS	BUSINESS	SPORTS	LIFESTYLE	A&E	THINGS TO DO	TRAVEL	CARS	JOBS	HOMES	LOCAL SEARCH	
Local	National	World	Politics	Business	Education	Health	Science	Green	Obituaries	Special reports	Traffic	Weather	Lottery

BOSTON & BEYOND. NOW.

METRODESK[< Back to front page](#)

Text size

Framingham students videotaped fight, posted it on Facebook

September 29, 2009 05:37 PM

[E-mail](#) | [Link](#) | [Comments \(\)](#)By **Matt Rocheleau**, *Globe Correspondent*

More than 40 Framingham high school students earlier this month turned out for a fistfight between two boys that was planned by cellphones and texting. Some students then videotaped the fray and posted the video on Facebook, officials said.

The two 15-year-old sophomores who fought were charged with juvenile counts of assault and battery for allegedly beating each other up shortly after classes dismissed on Sept. 14. However, it is unlikely the students who videotaped or watched the fight will face any charges because technically they did not violate any laws, said Lieutenant Paul Shastany, a Framingham police spokesman.

Principal Michael Welch said at least two students used their cellphone cameras to capture the fight and posted it to Facebook the next day. Those students were sternly spoken to by the school's student resource officer.

"The whole video thing is a new wrinkle. We're stuck trying to figure out what you can charge [the videographers] with or discipline them with," Welch said. "This is the same thing [a schoolyard fight] that has happened for generations. The difference was this made it on the Internet."

"I think there's no question [the videographers] knew what they did was wrong and won't do it again," he added.

Welch, Shastany and School Superintendent Steve Hiersche all said they had not seen the video personally and did not know how long the footage ran.

The video has since been removed from Facebook. School officials believe the students who posted the video took it down themselves once the students heard that teachers had learned it existed, said Welch.

Though no longer online, the video has become part of an ongoing police investigation.

"It's disappointing that the students wouldn't do something to alert the police," said Shastany. "There's a responsibility students have to each other. They have to intervene and notify police."

Administrators are also concerned because they believe they were texting one another during the day and immediately after school to alert their classmates the fight was planned.

"As usual, cellphones and text messages got the word out during the day far faster than any

On The Beat

Reporter **Michael Levenson** writes about **Sam Yoon joining the mayoral campaign of his former rival, Michael F. Flaherty Jr.**

**TALK TO US**

breakingnews@globe.com | Twitter | 617-929-3100

Recent stories from the MetroDesk

- Dozens offer homes for abandoned Attleboro cats
- Framingham students videotaped fight, posted it on Facebook
- Boston to allow more sightseeing vehicles
- Bedbugs, swine flu, and a minor sports comeback at MIT
- T officials announce Boston's first bike cage

Features**Inside Scoop**

The story behind the story

**Lives**

Dispatches from the death beat

**Teddy's Take**

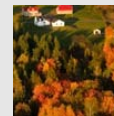
The photo of the day

**The Quad**

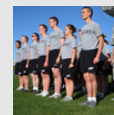
What's up at area colleges

**Viewpoints**

Quote them on it

Editor's Choice**Blaze of glory**

Soggy summer creates conditions for spectacular fall foliage in New England.

**New recruits**

Army ROTC participation is surging on college campuses, and it couldn't come at a better time for the military.

MORE

- [In Haverhill, skaters roll back the years](#)
- [Honoring a Negro League star pitcher](#)
- [The lost art of letter writing](#)
- [Former police officer finds himself homeless](#)

From Today's Globe

- [Support for Mass. health insurance overhaul drops, but is still strong](#)

word or mouth could, and the two combatants willingly and equally participated," Principal Michael Welch said in his weekly newsletter, published one week after the fight.

The school does not prevent students from having cellphones, as administrators realize the devices have become an important means of communication between many students and their parents, but students are told to keep phones hidden and off during school.

However, students can't be prevented from using their phone in the bathroom, for example, or when teachers aren't looking, said Welch, and "as soon as the bell rings, virtually everyone has a cell phone to their ear or is texting."

On whether the incident will prompt school officials to adopt stricter policies on cellphone use, Hiersche said, "I think one of our dilemmas right now as educators is finding a way to allow appropriate use of technology instead of banning things."

The fight occurred shortly after 2 p.m. by a wooded pathway between school grounds and Johnson Street. Neither boy was seriously injured and their names are not being released because of their age, officials said.

The two boys who fought were suspended for five days, and Welch said he doubted they wanted the fight to be videotaped or posted online.

The reason the two sophomores fought is not entirely clear, said Welch, but administrators believe it may have stemmed from a non-physical altercation earlier in the school year involving the younger brother of one of the combatants.

Shortly after the fight began, members of the school's staff hurried to stop the altercation. One of the students involved in the fight was caught and others who were spotted fleeing the area were questioned in the following days by school administrators to determine who the other combatant was, said Welch.

Teachers overheard students discussing videos of the fight posted on Facebook. Access to the social networking site is blocked on the school's computers. But school officials were able to find the video from computers not connected to the school's network.

Students have been told those found congregating in the woods behind the high school will be subject to disciplinary action.

Welch said he also addressed the student body the day after the fight and used the incident "as an opportunity to educate kids about the problems with technology."

[Comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [E-mail](#)

PREVIOUS STORY



[Boston to allow more sightseeing vehicles](#)



FRONT PAGE

NEXT STORY



[Dozens offer homes for abandoned Attleboro cats](#)

- [Retailers deck the halls while calendar says early fall](#)
- [Fees deterring many immigrants from applying for US citizenship](#)
- [Dire flu predictions scaled back](#)
- [Hingham teen dies in Ohio after contracting swine flu](#)

[MORE METRO STORIES >](#)

YOUR TOWN

NEWTON	Fund-raising leaders, new cancer center, and veteran crossing guard
NORWELL	Arrest in coin theft, Picnic on the Common, and paying to play sports
SCITUATE	Golf for a good cause, surplus land decision, and 'Lovers Light'
SOMERVILLE	Mental health forum, Tufts ball attendance, and the Haitian Festival

- [TEWKSBURY](#) [Discussion tonight on school options](#)
- [DUXBURY](#) [Pitching in to empower Afghan women](#)

YOUR REGION



- [North](#)
- [West](#)
- [South](#)

MORE BLOGS



White Coat Notes

[Overweight men with prostate cancer have a higher risk of dying](#) Men who are overweight when they have locally advanced prostate...



Articles of Faith

[What if Polanski were an abusive priest?](#) There's quite a conversation going on in the religion...

WORLDLY BOSTON

[Foy earns British honor \(UPDATED\)](#) Doug Foy (Globe file Photo, February 2006, Pat Greenhouse,...)

The Green Blog

[Where have the birds gone?](#) By Beth Daley
GLOBE STAFF Massachusetts Audubon's wildlife hotline has...

GET UPDATES



My Yahoo



RSS Feeds

- [Learn about RSS](#)

ARCHIVES

Select a month

LOCAL RESOURCES

- [Boston crime blog](#)
- [Brookline crime blog](#)
- [Mass. Turnpike traffic cameras](#)
- [Mass. Turnpike road conditions](#)
- [MBTA service alerts](#)

- [National Weather Service at Taunton](#)
- [Massachusetts sex offenders](#)
- [Boston Public Schools blog](#)
- [Massachusetts abandoned property](#)
- [Search for MCAS results](#)

LOCAL BLOGS »

BOSTON AREA

[Universal Hub](#)

A collection of writing from hundreds of Boston-area bloggers.

[The Chinatown Blog](#)

Stories and events related to Boston's Chinatown and the Asian American community in Massachusetts

[CommonWealth Magazine](#)

Politics, ideas, and civic life in Massachusetts

[Red Mass Group](#)

News and commentary about Massachusetts and beyond

[Blue Mass Group](#)

Politics in Massachusetts and around the nation

[Boston 1775](#)

History, analysis, and unabashed gossip about the start of the American Revolution.

COLLEGE NEWSPAPER SITES

[The Berkeley Beacon](#)

The weekly student newspaper at Emerson College

[The Daily Free Press](#)

The independent student newspaper at Boston University

[The Harvard Crimson](#)

The nation's oldest continuously published daily college newspaper.

[The Heights](#)

The independent student newspaper of Boston College

[The Huntington News](#)

The independent student newspaper of Northeastern University

[The Suffolk Journal](#)

Student newspaper of Suffolk University

[The Tufts Daily](#)

The independent student newspaper of Tufts University

INSIDE BOSTON.COM

THAT'S NOT AMORE



North End bar scene has some residents annoyed

CHOOSE THE BEST LOCAL ADS



Hold your beverage and vote. The winning ad gets an award

FALL FOLIAGE



Go leaf-peeping in New Hampshire's White Mountains

BILL BRETT PHOTOS



Photos from the BostonGives 2009 Big Give Event

PLUS...

- [Blogs](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Lottery](#)
- [Caption contest](#)
- [Today in history](#)