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## Prodded by parents, District 64's school board begins recording meetings

### Park Ridge-Niles district relents after critics video the proceedings

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A northwest suburban school district began recording school board meetings this week after parents complained about a lack of transparency and started recording the proceedings themselves.

Though Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 officials had been skeptical about video recording their meetings, a camera was set up to capture Monday's session, and the recording was later posted on the district's website. Officials said they're also talking with a local cable access channel about airing the meetings.

"This is a new process for us, so we are doing the best we can to get this up as quickly as possible," said Terri Bresnahan, district technology director. "We definitely will improve as we go and seek out all of our options."

School districts are not required to record public meetings, though many Chicago-area governing boards do.

Some District 64 parents have complained that officials haven't been forthcoming about how tax dollars are spent or how board decisions are made. For months, a small group of parents had asked for meetings to be recorded, but the district didn't budge.

A few weeks ago, the parents lugged equipment to a meeting and recorded it themselves.

Charlene Foss, who has two sons in the district, applauded its latest move, which she called surprising. She now hopes the board changes other procedures and takes a hard look at its spending. She pointed to a recent vote to give raises to administrators, which she said was taken with little public input or notice.

"All we're saying is we need to clean up some of the processes to ensure every dollar we pay is well spent and deserved," Foss said.

Parents said they will continue to record meetings themselves until they see that the district is recording on a consistent basis. Their videos are posted on YouTube in different segments under the name "sunshine4d64."

[jmdelgado@tribune.com](mailto:jmdelgado@tribune.com)