

From: Pete Pedulla
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 7:10 PM
To: Lefebvre, Ken
Cc: Crocker-Timmins, Virginia; George Dixon; Wojtas, Pat; Cohen, Paul; Bruce, Kristina
Subject: Zoom Bombing Mitigation

Ken et al.,

I thought perhaps the zoom-bombers had given up, but last week's meeting proved that theory wrong.

Here are two suggestions for mitigation going forward:

1. REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION.

1A. Dr. Lang requires those desiring to participate in School Committee meetings to email him first. Only then does he send a link. The School Committee meeting links are not publicly posted.

PRO: It works.
CONS: There is administration involved.
The meeting is less "open."

1B: Use Zoom Webinar or similar technology, which requires pre-registration

PRO: It should help.
CONS: There is administration involved.
The meeting is less "open."
It costs \$1200 yearly.

2. SCREEN ATTENDEES

- My proposal is to have an entry period of approximately 6-6:15pm. Folks who want to attend via zoom must join the meeting at that time.
- The chair – or if you prefer, I will do this if authorized by the board – asks each attendee to turn on their camera and identify themselves.
- The chair or myself will rename the attendee's screen name to reflect their actual name.
- After all attendees have been identified, they can turn off their cameras if not participating and the meeting is closed to new attendees.
- This process should not take more than 15 minutes, depending upon the number of attendees.

PRO: It should help.
CON: It adds time to the meeting.
The meeting is less open.

If we do not take steps, then you'll just have to live with the vandalism from time to time. I do my best, but it is impossible to stop people from attending an open, publicly-posted Zoom meeting using whatever name they choose. There were many last week that I refused entry to. Some had silly names such as "jimeney cricket" (sic). But, someone named "Nathan" also tried to enter. Because he appeared at the same time as "jimeney cricket," I was suspicious. He eventually gave up trying to enter the meeting.

Was he a citizen genuinely interested in participating? We will never know.

My recommendation would be to try Option 2 first. While it could lengthen the time of the meeting by a bit, it requires no administrative work outside of the actual Zoom meeting.

However, I would ask someone (Paul?) to weigh in on the legality of the such a change. Maybe it's not acceptable for some reason.

Thanks,
-Pete

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