SCREENS DOWN
PENCILS UP

Pencils Over Pixels
speakup@pencilsoverpixels.org

July 24, 2026

Dear LMSD Leadership,

We write on behalf of Pencils Over Pixels as concerned parents, educators, child experts, and neighbors who value LMSD, public education, and our extraordinary teachers. The Board's draft K-12 Technology Use Policy states that technology must "never replace the essential human relationships and experiences at the core of education." We agree. Our goal is for every child in Lower Merion to have access to the best possible education. This education should be rooted in research-based policies that prioritize building lifelong skills like critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and a love of learning. Educational technology has raised serious concerns[1] and evidence shows no clear benefits over teacher-led instruction that prioritizes human connection using physical books, paper, pencils, and textbooks[2]. LMSD now has a unique and timely opportunity to lead.

In early June, LMSD Policy Committee members expressed interest in meeting with community members and revising the draft policy to better address concerns. Consistent with the Board's promise, we present five requests for your consideration before the August 3rd Policy Committee meeting, followed by clarifying questions. These requests center around enhancing transparency, evaluation, and evidence-based, teacher-led instruction. We also renew our request for a formal in-person meeting with representatives selected by Pencils Over Pixels along with continued, meaningful, and authentic engagement with the LMSD board.

We look forward to working together to enhance the learning experience for every child in Lower Merion.

Sincerely,

Pencils Over Pixels

[1] Selwyn et al., 2020
[2] Forsström et al., 2025