

Committee and Process for SRO Recommendation

Charge: Make recommendation to WBOE on security personnel needs and costs for 2018-19 school year.

Timeframe: Recommendation to WBOE by **Board meeting on 9-18-17**

Members: Sandy Stein – **BOF/community member**
Teri Schatz – **BOS** (and BOS liaison to WBOE)
Rob Berke – Chair, **Police Commission**
Frank Cappiello – **Chief of Police**
Bob Gilbert – **Superintendent**
Gina Prisco - **Principal**
Margaret Hamilton – **WBOE Chair**
Lynn Piascyk – **Safety Committee member and WBOE member**
Additional **WBOE members as interested** – *Nancy Maasbach and Paul Testa*
Additional Parents-at-Large – *Maria Madonick, Patrick Reed*
PTO representative – recommended by PTO
Teacher Representative – **Peter Halsey**
Woodbridge Recreation Department Rep – **John Adamovich**
Extended Day Rep – **Cathy Salinardi**
Added – **Judy Silva, Secretary and Shari Foldy, Teacher Assistant**

Initial meeting of the SRO committee needs to occur as quickly as possible after 8/21/17 WBOE meeting – ideally that same week. Initial meeting needs to include discussion of options from Police Department, background/fact sheet for Open Houses, schedule of members to be at pre-meeting for Open House nights, decision of survey, etc.

Open House nights are August 31, September 5th and September 12th. Open House starts at 6:30, so if we use time prior to Open House events, we need to plan for 5:30 to 6:30 each evening.

Summary of Situation:

Beecher Road School has had a full time Security Resource Officer (police officer Vinnie Lynch) since December of 2012. The town has funded this resource since then, and is funding the resource through June 30, 2018. At that point, any security personnel costs will come out of the WBOE budget. The current SRO position costs \$125,000 annually, and covers much of the standard school day

As the position was not in our budget, the WBOE has NOT yet done a review of the needs for security personnel in our building

Physical security changes have been made to the building at Beecher Road school over the last two years. Some of the security enhancements include:

- Check in area for parents/visitors prior to getting into the school
- Locked doors at all entrances except during student bus arrival and dismissal
- Security cameras in hallways and entrances, viewable inside the school and by police.

The District now needs to do that evaluation to determine:

- What level of security personnel is needed? (police officer, security officer, retired police officer, no security personnel)
- What level of employment is needed? (full time, part time, drop off and pick up times only, school day vs. through Extended Day, summer needs, etc)
- What is the cost for this position (if needed) based on the answers to the above.

For a point of comparison, the following are some items in the budget and their cost:

- Teacher w/Masters, 8+ years experience – salary and benefits \$103,000
- Teacher w/Masters, 6-7 years experience – salary and benefits \$ 83,000
- Teacher w/Masters, 3-5 years experience – salary and benefits \$ 70,000
- Technology equipment replacement cost annually \$100,000
- TA (Teaching Assistant) salary and benefits \$ 44,000
- Electricity costs budgeted for 2017-18 \$120,000
- Cost of one bus, including fuel \$ 56,000
- ESTIMATE cost of full-time security guard (salary only) \$ 30,000

Based on the reductions in the WBOE budget for 2017-18, it is anticipated that budget reductions from our current budget WILL be made in the 2018-19 budget. Again, this means that funding for any security personnel will need to be offset by reductions in other areas, which may including staffing.

Note: In meeting discussion, need to determine if any reference should be made to issue from March where SRO position was discussed.

Survey:

In order to get a broad response from faculty and parents, we will need to do a short, targeted survey with some background information included.

A sample of possible survey questions are below:

1. Are you a:
 - a. Parent
 - b. Staff member

2. Based on your experience with the security at Beecher, do you think a security person is needed:
 - a. At all
 - b. During arrival and dismissal
 - c. At random times during the school day
 - d. Through Extended Day
 - e. During summer programs (SEP, Rec, etc)
 - f. Other (please describe)

3. What level of training do you feel a security person needs to be effective?
 - a. Active police officer with current training
 - b. Retired police officer
 - c. Security guard
 - d. School staff person
 - e. No security person
 - f. Other (please describe)

4. Recognizing that reductions to other services **will need to be made** to fund a security person, what types of budget items are you willing to see reduced?
 - a. Certified staff positions (teachers)
 - b. Support staff positions (secretary, custodians, TA, etc)
 - c. Technology
 - d. Supplies
 - e. Any budget items
 - f. No budget items
 - g. Other (please describe)

5. Comments