

Ad Hoc SRO Committee Meeting on 8/24/17

Attendees: Frank Cappiello, Rob Berke, John Adamovich, Judy Silva, Shari Foldy, Sandy Stein, Peter Halsey, Cathy Salinardi, Bob Gilbert, Gina Prisco

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

Charge of Committee: Make a recommendation to the WBOE on security personnel needs.

The DRAFT document (attached) was reviewed and discussed. Also distributed was a sheet summarizing security personnel information from other school districts. Some items discussed include:

- Response time in case of emergency: estimate 2-5 minutes.
- Police have access to camera video feeds at police headquarters and in command vehicles.
- Only active duty police officer can be armed within school, unless WBOE authorizes non-police officer to carry a weapon.
- DARE is not part of SRO discussion – that program exists and continues separately from any decision on SRO/security personnel.
- Use of a police officer “part-time” is not an option, as the cost would be the same or higher than a full time SRO given the overtime pay structure within the Police Department.
- SRO discussion involves the POSITION, not a PERSON. Vinnie Lynch has been the person in the position, but that is not a “given” – depends on needs of Police Department, various officers, etc.
- Value of SRO includes his/her knowledge of community – knows families, gets daily updates on town/family issues, etc.

A parent/staff survey will be developed after three Open House sessions. Feedback from these sessions will be used to form survey narrative and questions.

Open House forums:

- A short “fact sheet” will be developed for distribution to parents.
- Members of the Ad Hoc SRO committee will be available from 5:30 to 6:30 on each of the Open House nights: August 31, September 5, and September 12.
- The goal of these sessions is to answer any questions and LISTEN to parent issues, concerns, etc.

Budget issues were discussed, and the cost of continuing the current SRO is the equivalent of two certified staff positions. The SRO is NOT in the WBOE budget for 2017-18, nor is it in the Police Department budget for 2017-18. It is being covered by the two OUTSIDE of either budget, so it would have to be ADDED to the WBOE budget, not continued. The DARE program cost is separate and IS in the WBOE budget for 2017-18.

A notice will be sent on the first day of school to all parents (using the Principal Update email) which will let parents know:

- The existence of the Ad Hoc SRO Committee
- Notice of the Open House forums
- Solicitation of a few parents to become committee members
- Notice of the parent/staff survey that will be released mid-September

Margaret will provide a summary of the “fact sheet” to members by Friday, August 25th, and will second a second draft out after comments are returned. This will become the fact sheet used at the Open Houses, so it needs to be ready by August 30th.

Our next meeting is September 14th at 6pm in the Library. At this meeting we will establish the Survey narrative and questions. The survey will be released as soon as it is ready. We will schedule the next meeting date and time on September 14th to discuss survey results and next steps which will include:

- Decision on recommendation to WBOE on SRO/security personnel needs.
- Communication to parents and staff regarding outcome (forum, written communication, etc.).

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.