

# Ad Hoc SRO Committee Information Sheet

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Woodbridge Board of Education has been formed to make a recommendation on security personnel needs. This is for the 2018-19 school year, as the Town of Woodbridge is funding the SRO position at Beecher Road School through June 30, 2018. The SRO position has NEVER been a part of the WBOE budget.

Members include: Sandy Stein (BOF), Bob Gilbert (Superintendent), Gina Prisco (Principal), Frank Cappiello (Police Chief), Rob Berke (Police Commission), John Adamovich (WRD), Cathy Salinardi (Extended Day), Peter Halsey (Teacher), Shari Foldy (TA), Judy Silva (Secretary), Margaret Hamilton (WBOE), Lynn Piascyk (WBOE), Nancy Maasbach (WBOE), Paul Testa (WBOE), Parent Representatives Maria Madonick and Patrick Reed.

Here is some background and general information on the SRO position and related matters:

1. A school building upgrade has been completed recently that includes security features such as:
  - a. Video cameras in the hallways of the school, that can be viewed from inside the school, and at the Police Department, and in police cars of command personnel.
  - b. Secured and monitored entrances at both the North and South Entrance.
  - c. Classroom access changes.
  - d. Lock down automation and procedure changes.
  - e. Enhanced communication between the school and Police Departments.
2. Cost of SRO position, as it currently exists, equates to the cost of two certified staff positions. This means that adding the SRO to the WBOE budget could (*and very likely would*) result in the reduction of two certified staff positions. The cost is \$125,000 per year.
3. The WBOE budget for school year 2018-19 is in progress. There are a variety of items that are resulting in higher costs for FY19, in addition to normal budget needs based on enrollment. This includes the possible addition of SRO, addition of technology costs (which were eliminated for FY18), Special Education costs, contractual salary obligations, medical insurance premium increase of 23%, and other items.

All of the above are included to give you an idea of the increases for the FY19 budget. In addition to district costs, Education Cost Share payments from the state have been eliminated for FY18 (unless a budget is passed that changes this situation). This amount for FY18 was \$655,000 for Beecher, and that will NOT be paid to Woodbridge by the state. The Town is currently looking at how to fund this loss of state revenue. There is no anticipation that any of that funding will be restored for FY19. Again, this is to explain the offsets needed to accommodate the SRO in the budget.

4. Many districts do not have an SRO, but some have armed or unarmed security who are retired police officers at a greatly reduced cost.
5. The DARE program is NOT part of this issue – it will continue regardless of SRO staffing in the school.

All of this information is to start an informed conversation with our parents and staff! There will be a formal survey of all parents and staff sent in late September, but we are looking for questions, feedback, other issues not mentioned, etc.

THANK YOU for your time and attention to this important issue for our school.

*The Ad Hoc SRO Committee*