



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

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**DATE OF MEETING:**           **May 8, 2012**

**TITLE:     **Resolution of Appreciation for Town of Oro Valley and Oro Valley Police Department for School Resource Officers Support of Drug Abuse Prevention and Awareness Activities****

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**BACKGROUND:**

For several years, the Town of Oro Valley and its Police Department have assigned dedicated law enforcement officers to schools located within town limits. These "School Resource Officers" (SRO's) serve an invaluable role in the school culture and provide significant benefits to the community as a whole by their presence.

SRO programs have been in schools across the nation since the 1960's, but have certainly expanded over more recent years as communities have recognized the benefits they provide. In general, those benefits derived from multiple functions SRO's serve, primarily consisting of law enforcement, student counseling, and law-related education.

The actual time committed by individual SROs to each of these basic functions can vary, but a survey of SROs from across the country by the Center for the Prevention of School Violence specifically asked about these roles as well as other activities to determine what SROs are doing in the schools to which they are assigned.

In response to this survey, SROs indicated that they spend 50 percent of their time on law enforcement duties. Such duties include such activities as foot patrols of their school campuses and site inspections to ensure the safety and security of students and staff.

According to this survey, thirty percent of SRO time is spent serving a law-related counseling role. Ninety-eight percent of the SROs who responded to the survey said they maintain an "open-door" policy when it comes to interacting with students. A model number of five formal "counseling" sessions per week was identified in the survey data. SROs also refer students to other service agencies if additional assistance is needed.

The survey indicates that twenty percent of SRO time is spent on their law-related education role. A median number of two classroom sessions conducted per week was identified by responding SROs in the survey.

The OVPD SROs fill these same roles in Amphitheater schools. On a daily basis, they interact with students on a positive basis, providing significant guidance and counsel to students. They assist school personnel in maintaining the safety and security of campuses. They support the activities of teachers and counselors at the schools and deliver direct instruction to students on a broad selection of topics and issues of importance to students.

One of their most valuable activities is the coordination and provision of drug awareness activities. Oro Valley Police Department and its School Resource Officers have undertaken important activities to bring public attention to the risks and costs of drug abuse. Equally important, our School Resource Officers have carried their specific message to our students. Their impact on young lives and young decision makers cannot be overestimated.

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Recently, the Oro Valley Police Department, in cooperation with other community organizations, hosted a Drug Awareness Day at Riverfront Park. Attached to this item is a resolution of appreciation for the Oro Valley Police Department, and our own OVPD School Resource Officers and their ongoing support of drug awareness activities.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Administration recommends the Governing Board's approval of the attached form of resolution, which will be sent to the Oro Valley Town Council, OVPD Chief Danny Sharp, and each of our Oro Valley school SRO's and principals.

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**INITIATED BY:**



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Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent

Date: May 2, 2012



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Vicki Balentine, Ph.D., Superintendent

**Resolution of the  
Amphitheater Unified School District Governing Board  
Expressing Appreciation for the  
Oro Valley Police Department, Its School Resource Officers,  
and Their Drug Awareness Efforts**

**WHEREAS**, the Amphitheater Unified School District Governing Board (the Board) is charged with providing a free public education to students of the District so that they may grow to become productive, contributing citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the Board is deeply concerned for the safety of students entrusted to it and sees the provision of a safe learning environment as one of the cornerstones of a free public education;

**WHEREAS**, the presence of illicit drugs and misused prescription drugs on school campuses damages the lives of young people on a daily basis, sometimes leading to tragic consequences;

**WHEREAS**, such tragedy has taken its worst possible form in our District community through the loss of lives, including student lives – losses that were directly attributable to or caused by the use of illicit drugs;

**WHEREAS**, the prevention of drug abuse requires education, social services, law enforcement activities, and preventative efforts from many segments of our community;

**WHEREAS**, the Amphitheater Unified School District is benefitted by the presence of School Resource Officers (SROs), placed by the Oro Valley Police Department (OVPD) at schools located in Oro Valley;

**WHEREAS**, the OVPD SROs support District schools in many ways, but notably in valuable and significant ways that help prevent illicit drug use and prescription drug abuse;

**WHEREAS**, the OVPD and the SRO's sponsor drug awareness activities designed to draw the public's attention to the serious issue of drug abuse;

**WHEREAS**, the recent efforts of OVPD and the SROs on Drug Awareness Day on March 30, 2012 drew in a record number of participating parents, students and other citizens;

**WHEREAS**, OVPD and the SRO's have reached out beyond Oro Valley to include students from across the District in the Drug Awareness Activities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Governing Board of the Amphitheater Unified School District extends its appreciation, on behalf of the students, staff, and parents of the District, for the efforts of the Oro Valley Police Department and School Resource Officers to better the lives of the young people of our shared community and protect them from the dangers of drugs.

PASSED this eighth day of May, 2012 by the Governing Board.

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Diana L. Boros  
Governing Board President

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Susan Zibrat  
Governing Board Vice President

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Kent Paul Barrabee, Ph.D.  
Governing Board Member

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Jeff Grant  
Governing Board Member

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Linda Loomis, Ph.D.  
Governing Board Member