

Bullet Points For Consideration in Developing Survey Narrative for SRO

A SRO Committee of the Board of Education was formed in September to make a recommendation to the WBOE on what level of security personnel is needed for Beecher Road School. As of July 1, 2018, any security personnel at BRS will be funded by the school district.

Adding the current level of SRO to the budget would cost \$125,000 annually. To fund this position, the WBOE would need to reduce teaching staff by 2 full-time positions. Given other increases to the WBOE budget (medical premium increases, contractual salary increases, special education cost increases, etc), and given reductions of state support of schools (reduction in Educational Cost Share, possible contributions to Teacher Pensions, etc), the budget for FY19 already requires reductions to many areas, so staff reductions would be required.

Valid salary information regarding the cost of a retired police officer vs salary of a SRO is necessary. This information is vital in decision making as there are no health benefits or retirement benefit costs to factor in for a retired PO. This will also result in less staff cuts. Crystal clear indication on survey that if SRO is maintained at Beecher...**staff will definitely be cut** (survey stated "most likely"). It cannot be both ways.

For comparison, these are some current budget items:

- Teacher w/Masters, 9+ years experience – salary and benefits \$103,000
- Teacher w/Masters, 3-5 years experience – salary and benefits \$ 70,000
- Technology equipment replacement cost annually \$100,000
- Cost of one bus, including fuel \$ 56,000

Our current SRO does more than ensure the safety and security of our children and staff.

- Role model for students and community policing for parents/staff.
- Daily updates to staff/admin on police issues such as protective and restraining orders, DCF issues, etc.
- Teaches DARE, internet safety, safety classes for all grades, home safety programs and more.

Other districts use security guards or retired police officers for security. Costs vary:

- SRO (as is currently used) \$125,000
- Retired Police Officer \$60,000
- Security Guard \$40,000

DARE is not part of this discussion – DARE will continue regardless of whether a SRO position exists in the school. Police presence at events, such as the HOOT, Ice Cream Social, concerts, etc., is also NOT “lost” if there is no SRO at Beecher. Police presence will continue at these events unchanged.

If the idea of fundraising is presented it should be stated that it would be to fund an SRO/Safety Officer and DARE is not impacted.

Strongly disagree with any "fundraising" for this position.

If no SRO is employed at BRS, the school will be on a patrol route, so that a police car will drive through the campus at least a few times during the day randomly, and will be part of that patrol car's regular responsibility.

Past experience by staff with security guards in the building is not positive – physical building security changes far exceed the value of a security guard, based on use of that type of position previously.

Response time from outside of the school is 2-5 minutes for emergencies.

The survey should state that committee will look at all options but survey responses will not be considered a "vote".

I feel that some statistical information should be included in the prequel to the survey. The information I am including below came from *Everytown for Gun Safety*. This organization analyzes school shootings and who the perpetrators are. I think this type of information would be helpful when making a decision on an SRO. Statistics show that the violent person is a familiar person to the school. With this said, whether there is an SRO or not, they would most likely gain access to the school because they are an individual the staff at Beecher would be familiar with.

In 2013, Everytown began tracking gunfire in schools and at college and universities — public reports that a firearm was discharged inside a school building or on school or campus grounds — and over the next three years identified 160 qualifying incidents, including fatal and nonfatal assaults, suicides, and unintentional shootings.

INTRODUCTION - In all, these incidents resulted in 59 deaths and 124 non-fatal gunshot injuries.

Regardless of the individuals involved in a shooting, or the circumstances that gave rise to it, gunfire in schools and at colleges and universities undermines the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments. By tracking this data, Everytown hopes to begin a reasoned discussion about effective means to promote school safety.

Of shootings perpetrated by minors at primary and secondary schools and for which the source of the firearm was known, more than half of the kids obtained the gun at home — likely because an adult did not store it locked and unloaded.

Twenty-four shootings — nearly one in six — occurred after a confrontation or verbal argument intensified, because of the presence of a gun rather than in spite of it.

Incidents were classified as school shootings when a firearm was discharged inside a school building or on school or campus grounds, as documented by the press or confirmed through further inquiries with law enforcement. Incidents in which guns were brought into schools but not fired, or were fired off school grounds after having been possessed in schools, were not included.

STAFF COMMENT

We are not in favor of keeping SRO at the expense of lost teaching positions.