

Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2021 7:00 PM

BMS Media Center, Bethel Middle School, 600 Whittlesey Drive, Bethel (In-Person Only Meeting) Masks & Social Distancing must be followed., 600 Whittlesey Drive, Bethel, CT 06801

1.	Call to Order	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
A.	Roll Call for Quorum	
B.	Pledge of Allegiance	
2.	Board Recognition/A Salute to Excellence	
A.	Gifts, Grants, & Bequests	
3.	BOARD REPORTS - PROGRESS TOWARDS DISTRICT INITIATIVES	
A.	Planning for Student Success	Speaker(s): Dr. Brook & Mrs. Rutledge
4.	Consent Calendar	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
A.	Approval of Minutes	
1.	August 16, 2021, Special Meeting	
2.	August 19, 2021, Regular Meeting	
5.	Correspondence	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
6.	Public Comments (Please note: The Board welcomes Public Comments and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 2 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the Bethel Public School System.)	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
7.	Administrative/Board Member Update	Speaker(s): Policy 9326
A.	Board Chairperson Update	
B.	Administrative Update	
8.	Action Item(s)	
A.	MOU with Bethel Police Department, SRO Program	
B.	CABE Board Recognition Award Application 2021	
9.	Reports to the Board	
A.	Policy	Speaker(s): Policy 9310, 9311, 9313

1. **First Reading**

a. Policy/Regulation 5118 - Nonresident Students

b. Policy/Regulation 1140 - Distribution of Materials

c. Policy 1170 - Recognition of Citizens, Staff Members, Members of Board of Education, Students

d. Policy 1312 - Public Relations

e. Policy 3524.2 Green Cleaning

f. Policy/Regulation 5131.911 - Bullying & Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention & District Climate Plan (Regulation)

g. Policy/Regulation 5141.3 - Health Assessment and Immunizations

2. **Second Reading**

a. Policy 6142.10 - Health Education Program **Speaker (s):** Christine Carver

b. Policy 6142.101 - Student Wellness & Nutrition **Speaker (s):** Christine Carver

B. Resource Management & Business Operations

1. Finance

a. EFS Report - (Formerly ED001) End of Year Expenditure Report **Speaker (s):** Mrs. Rodgers

2. Facilities **Speaker (s):** Policy 3132

a. ROCKWELL/JOHNSON SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS INFORMATION/UPDATE

i. Owner's Rep. Report (Monthly)

10. **Recommended Executive Session**

A. CT General Statutes 1-210(b)(9) Negotiations - Paraeducator Negotiations

11. **Adjourn**

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
Bethel Board of Education
&
Bethel Police Department
Town of Bethel, CT for a
School Resource Officers'
Program**

AGREEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

THIS AGREEMENT, made as of this 17th day of March, 2016, by and between the TOWN OF BETHEL, hereinafter referred to as the "Town" and the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BETHEL, hereinafter referred to as the "Board" or "the school system";

Commented [1]: Effective date?

Commented [2]: We will add it once approved by all groups. Do you think we should have a joint meeting?

WITNESSETH:

THAT WHEREAS, the school system desires special law enforcement services to be rendered by the Chief of the Bethel Police Department (the "Police Department"), namely the providing of School Resource Officers (SROs) for use in the school system pursuant to § 10-244a of the Connecticut General Statutes and;

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police, the Bethel Police Commission, the First Selectman, and the Board of Education have agreed that the Bethel Police Department will provide such special law enforcement services to the school system upon certain terms and conditions provided hereinafter,

NOW, THEREFORE, this memorandum of understanding will be used by the Police Department and the Board to cooperatively run the SRO Program.

I. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

- A. The Chief of Police shall provide sworn officers to be assigned to specific schools, as School Resource Officers. The selection and assignment of the individual officers shall be at the discretion of the Chief of Police. It is understood that the Police Department may have to remove the SRO from the school for periods of time to attend to other duties, be that training, staff shortages, meetings, or other various reasons to include unforeseen emergencies. It is further understood that the School Resource Officers are employees of the Bethel Police Department and will be subject to the rules and regulations, policies, and procedures of the police department.
- B. The Chief of Police shall ensure that the exercise of any law enforcement powers by the School Resource Officers is in compliance with the authority granted by law to sworn police officers.

II. ASSIGNMENT OF THE SRO

1. The selection of officers for assignment to the SRO Program shall be the responsibility of the Police Chief or his/her designee, with input from the Superintendent or his/her designee. Such assignment is at-will and subject to change. The Chief of Police may reassign an SRO as he deems necessary and or appropriate.
2. In the event of the resignation, dismissal, or reassignment of the SRO, the Chief of Police will provide a replacement for the SRO within a reasonable amount of time. If the SRO is absent from his/her school, due to personal illness, vacation, meetings, or other law enforcement reasons, a replacement may not be provided, but every attempt will be made to ensure at least one SRO is on duty.
3. Each SRO shall be assigned a primary school with oversight responsibilities for other designated schools as well. Each SRO will report directly to the assigned school at times determined by the principal, Police Chief or his/her designee, with input from the Superintendent or his/her designee.-
4. During the scheduled student year, the SRO will primarily work a Monday through Friday schedule with Saturday and Sunday off. On certain occasions, the work schedule may fluctuate to permit the SRO to work extra-curricular student events (ball games, dances, etc.). Any incurred overtime expenses will be billed to the Board of Education as per established practice.
5. The SRO shall work with the principal and school personnel in his/her assigned school as a staff member. Each school principal is the primary authority for school rules & regulations and discipline.
6. In an emergency or when the SRO is not readily available school personnel should call 911 for assistance and then the Superintendent (203-788-8205 - cell)-
7. Each SRO will be assigned a portable police radio, ~~and~~ a portable school radio, and a school cell phone which will be turned on at all times while the SRO is on duty.
8. SRO shall comply with the police department dress code which shall be the standard uniform of the day while working in the school. On occasion, the SRO may wear plainclothes with prior approval of his/her assigned school Principal. An inspection of the SROs uniform, equipment, and vehicle will be conducted regularly by his/her supervisor.

Commented [3]: should we use "their" instead of his/her?

Formatted: Underline

III. GOALS & OBJECTIVES OF THE SRO PROGRAM

Assignment of a uniformed law enforcement officer to a school by the Police Department to work in cooperation with the school administrators, students, staff, parents and community members in the following areas:

1. Law Enforcement - To help maintain a safe and secure environment that will be conducive to learning. To help prevent crime and violence in our schools and on our school grounds. To help decrease criminal offenses committed against persons and property in and around schools and to help enhance overall safety
2. Education- Counseling - To promote positive attitudes regarding the police role in society and to inform students of their rights and responsibilities as lawful citizens. To help students learn more about the law and the criminal justice system

3. Law Enforcement - Education - To establish a liaison with school personnel in a cooperative effort to prevent disruptive or violent behaviors.

3.4. School Official: SRO's are considered school officials in the capacity of district and school safety.

Formatted: Font color: Auto

IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- A. A designee of the Chief of Police shall work with the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee to coordinate the activities of, and otherwise communicate with, the School Resource Officers on behalf of the school system.
- B. The Police Department will provide funds needed to purchase necessary equipment such as a vehicle.
- C. The Board shall provide and maintain the following for each SRO through the duration of this memorandum of understanding: office space, furniture, and access to one of the school's telephones on its existing lines, cell phone, and security camera video access on laptop or at the SRO Office.
- D. The duties of the Superintendent of Schools and Administration shall include but not be limited to:
 1. Facilitating the implementation of the School Resource Officer Program.
 2. Assisting in the yearly evaluation of the School Resource Officer Program.
 3. Working closely with the School Resource Officers to help design law related instruction to address specific law related issues.

In the event the Superintendent and the principal of the school, to which the SRO is assigned, determine that the particular SRO is not effectively performing his/her duties and responsibilities, the principal will state in writing the reasons to the Superintendent. The Superintendent, upon receiving such information will inform the Chief of Police of the concerns. The Superintendent and the Chief of Police, or their designees will meet with the SRO, and the principal to mediate or resolve any problems of the school to which the SRO is assigned. If, within a reasonable amount of time after the commencement of such mediation, the problem cannot be resolved or mediated, or in the event mediation is not sought by the Chief of Police, the SRO may be reassigned from the program and a replacement will be obtained.

V. SRO REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. Chain of Command

1. As employees of the Police Department, SROs shall follow the Chain of Command as set forth by the Police Department.
2. In the performance of their SRO duties, SROs shall coordinate and communicate with the principal or the principal's designee of the school to which they are assigned.

B. Law Enforcement & School Based Activities by the SRO-Access to

Commented [4]: We would need to update our policy.

Student Records:

1. The SRO shall complete arrest and/or investigative reports in accordance with police department policy.
2. All school arrests, to include those on school grounds, custody or not, shall be brought to the attention of the school principal, Superintendent, SRO supervisor, and the department's Detective Youth Officer.
3. The SRO shall not conduct searches of students or others except as permitted bylaw.
- ~~3-4.~~ The use of confidential school records by the SRO shall be prohibited except under legally regulated conditions. The SRO shall have access to school records only in accordance with MOU, district policy, state, and federal law.
5. The SRO will be considered a "school official" because it performs a function otherwise that it would pay an employee, school security:
 - Performs an institutional service or function for which the agency or institution would otherwise use employees;
 - Is under the direct control of the Bethel Public Schools or institution with respect to the use and maintenance of education records;
 - Is subject to the requirements in § 99.33(a) that the personally identifiable information (PII) from education records may be used only for the purposes for which the disclosure was made, e.g., to promote school safety and the physical security of students, and governing the redisclosure of PII from education records; and
4. ● Meets the criteria specified in the school or local educational agency's (LEA's) annual notification of FERPA rights for being a school official with a legitimate educational interest in the education records.
- ~~5-6.~~ The use of confidential school records by the SRO shall be prohibited except under legally regulated conditions. The SRO shall have access to school records only in accordance with MOU, district policy, state, and federal law.

Formatted: Indent: Hanging: 0.3", Border: Top: (No border), Bottom: (No border), Left: (No border), Right: (No border), Between : (No border)

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

Formatted: Outline numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: Bullet + Aligned at: 1.25" + Indent at: 1.5"

Commented [5]: ?

VI. SRO DUTIES:

1. To assist in educating students as to the role of police in our society and other law enforcement, related issues, i.e., crime prevention, recognition of substance abuse, driver safety, and gang violence.
2. To serve as an instructor of law related education by working closely with teachers in customizing and designing instruction to address specific law related issues.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

1. To serve as a positive role model and mentor for students.
2. To make students aware of the consequences of juvenile delinquency through close contact with students and school personnel.
3. To act as a liaison between the police department and school principals, faculty and students.
4. To serve on the School and District Safe School and Security committee.

Formatted: Indent: Hanging: 0.25", Outline numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.66" + Indent at: 0.91"

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.65", Hanging: 0.25", Outline numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.66" + Indent at: 0.91"

5. To work with the Principal and District Administration to annually assess safety in the schools and on the complex, making recommendations.
6. To communicate as necessary and appropriate with other security personnel and other SROs assigned to campuses in the Bethel Public Schools.
7. To inform students of their rights and responsibilities as lawful citizens.
8. To provide information and input to school-based student service professionals and school staff members to help plan to meet the needs of students.
9. To act as a liaison resource to the Police Department and the principal in investigating criminal law violations occurring in the school or on school property and in the community.
10. To formulate educational crime prevention programs to reduce the opportunity for crimes against persons and property in the schools.
11. To participate in the Parent-Teacher ~~Organization Association and other~~ meetings as requested.
12. To be available/on duty during extracurricular activities and athletic events when feasible. If costs are incurred they will be billed as overtime/extra work.
13. Adapt and maintain a visible, motivated, proactive approach to crime and school problems.
14. To understand that the SRO assigned is not a school disciplinarian. Disciplining students is a school responsibility.

Commented [6]: ?

Each SRO shall be familiar with the Bethel Public Schools Student Handbook/Code of Conduct and adhere to the principal's scope of authority in the school.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 11 pt

If the SRO is asked to perform a duty the SRO considers outside the scope of his/her duties and/or inappropriate the matter shall be referred to the officer's supervisor and the Superintendent will be notified.

VIII. SUPERVISION:

- A. There shall be an SRO Supervisor whose duties shall include:
 1. Supervision and oversight of the SRO Program.
 2. Visiting School Resource Officers during their school assignments.
 3. Reviewing reports and related paperwork completed by School Resource Officers.
 4. Coordinating School Resource officers' duties and others that are related to law enforcement on school campuses.
- B. There shall be a Department Commander ~~(Lieutenant)~~ whose duties shall include:
 1. Oversight of the SRO Program.
 2. Meeting, as necessary, with the SRO Supervisor and or the Superintendent to ensure the effectiveness of the SRO Program.

Commented [7]: ?

IX. TRAINING:

The Police Department and the school system shall work collaboratively to provide necessary ongoing training for all School Resource Officers. Included in this training should be knowledge of policies, procedures, and programs in schools that will help to make the resource officer's job most effective. Each SRO is expected to complete the 40-hour training program provided by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and any other legislative or district requirements. Police department training shall be provided for School Resource Officers as deemed necessary by the police department and at the Town's expense. Monthly meetings shall be provided for School Resource Officers to share best practices and to provide support for the officers.

Commented [8]: Are we keeping this last sentence? We talked about deleting or clarifying with whom?

Commented [9]: I thought we were. That it happened at the Police Department.

Commented [10]: Okay thanks

X. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall be made from date of signing and shall continue until either party indicates an interest in modification or termination. Modifications by agreement shall be cause for re-issue and re-signing of the MOU/document.

XI. TERMINATION

While both parties are committed to maintaining the SRO program, it is understood that circumstances may arise that necessitate the termination of this Agreement. Accordingly, either party may terminate this Agreement by serving written notice upon the other parties at least thirty (30) days in advance of such termination.

XII. COMPLETE AGREEMENT

This Agreement is the complete Agreement of the parties; it may be amended or modified only in writing; and supersedes, cancels, and terminates any and all prior agreements or understandings of the parties, whether written or oral, concerning the subject matter hereof

Christine L. Carver, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Date

Stephen Pagner, Police Chief
Bethel Police Department

Date

Meline O'Brien, Chair
Bethel Board of Education

Date

Anthony Rubino, Chair
Bethel Police Commission

Date

Matt Knickerbocker
First Selectman

Date