

FUND 80/SRO QUESTIONS FROM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

History and Current Practice

1. What is the history of the SRO program and how does it currently operate in practice?
2. What purpose does the SRO's serve in our district?
3. Would it help to have a historical perspective to the program? Why started? David Johnston (who is still in the community) started this and could provide it.
4. What are the types of responsibilities SROs are actually taking on in our schools? Has that changed in recent years?
5. Please clarify truancy rules. Aren't police required to follow up on these? What kind of impact will this difference procedure have? More negative or positive for students?
- a. Can there be clarification on suspensions? Aren't school administrators required to do this (not SROs)?
6. What type of social justice training do SRO's receive?
7. How have the schools been part of the selection process of SRO's?
8. What does a typical day of an SRO look like?
9. According to Patty's email from 6/22/20, she states the "primary responsibility of the SROs is not to provide school security" (emphasis in original), she does list the specific purpose of the SRO program as related to DPI. This goes against the stated mission within the SRO MOU which, under section 3, states the mission of the SRO program to "create and maintain safe, secure and orderly learning environments...." There is also a dichotomy within the MOU, which states the purpose of the MOU is to "build a positive relationship between law enforcement and the youth...." We need to determine whether the practice of the SRO program has strayed from its intended mission and, if so, how to either refocus the efforts. Also, we need to better align the stated purpose and mission. Otherwise, if it is not possible to recommit to the original intent of the program, there needs to be conversation about either making changes or eliminating the program.
10. In what way have the SROs worked to build relationships with students of color and their families? What events do they attend within the community (separate from any district sanctioned event) to support communities of color?
11. If the district pays part of the salary of the SROs, why would the SROs not be under the supervision and jurisdiction of the school district? It seems odd to have someone pay for part of a salary and then not have any authority over the individual.
12. The statement in the SRO MOU that "The Police Department reserves the right to remove any SRO at any time if Police Department staffing levels fall below acceptable norms" does not seem to comport with a joint, cooperative effort. A little more explanation regarding why this is the case is needed.
13. There needs to be more clarity around Section 4 Organizational Structure, B Supervision. Just as in #4 above, we need more clarity as to why this is the case (i.e., SROs remain solely the responsibility of the Police Department). For \$250,000, it would seem to me we should have more cooperative discussions about how to handle situations which are not providing appropriate service or support to our district.
14. The selection of SROs is the final purview of the police department, per section 5A. There should be more clarity regarding why this is the case. If there is no real justification for this,

then the school district should be an active partner in the selection process, and the district should be a co-equal partner in the process. Please determine the rationale behind the stated selection processes and why the district is not a more equal partner.

15. Section 5B specifically states "The SRO is first and foremost a law enforcement officer...responsible for carrying out all the duties and responsibilities of [a police officer], and shall remain at all times under the control...of the law enforcement agency." This seems counterintuitive with the supposed mission and purpose found on page 1 of the MOU. Further, if an SRO is not performing appropriately or is a cause for concern, the district has no authority to remove that officer. Please determine how this section's language is in line with the purpose and mission of the SRO MOU, as well as in line with the district's need to ensure effective school operations and a positive learning environment.
16. The MOU specifically states the SRO cannot function as a formal counselor or educator. This is understandable as an officer of the law does not necessarily hold licensure to be a counselor or educator. Further, if they are "first and foremost a law enforcement officer," it would be good to see in what way the duties of a law enforcement officer comport with the comments received, which state the officers do function in these capacities. This may just be a matter of semantics; however, clarity of language is needed to ensure we are all on the same page.
17. Section 6 of the SRO MOU states the responsibilities of the SRO. Assuming they are listed in order of primacy, I am curious as to why the first responsibility is "enforce criminal law and protect the students, staff, and public at large against criminal activity." The next four responsibilities are all in regard to safety and their role as officers of the law. There is a dichotomy of the responsibilities meshing with the mission and purpose that needs to be rectified. This is especially important given the language in the eighth responsibility listed: "SRO shall under no circumstances be required or expected to act in a manner inconsistent with their duties as law enforcement officers." Again, we need clarity.
18. When do SROs call SROs, both teachers and administrators?
19. What is the reason for Fund 80 and how does this intersect with the MOU as it is currently written?

Data and Research

1. What does local and national data and research indicate about SRO programs and their alternatives?
2. What has the SRO program done to address Racial Disproportionality?
3. Are there any examples (regionally, statewide or nationally) of districts that have removed SROs and what the impact has been? What kind of personnel replaced SROs? What kind of success did the new staff have? What was the impact on students?
4. Are there any statistics/research done locally regarding the effectiveness of our SRO program and related impact? It would be nice to see local impact and not those that only
a. reflect other than districts statewide (WASB)/nationally (NASB). What research has been
b. done? Is there any other local research that could be beneficial?
c. done?
5. Is there a way to hear any testimonials from clients (students, graduates, parents) in recent years – in the last 5 years or less? What are students/parents directly involved with SROs saying? Have any surveys been done?

6. The Criminal Justice Management Council has offered to research and make recommendations. What type of information from them would be beneficial for our process? Should we be inviting them (or others) into the process to bring in an outside viewpoint?
7. Though the SRO MOU states, on page 3, that the Police Department will not interfere with school curriculum or classroom instruction except in emergency situations, I would want to determine whether this is truly the case. If there are times that the school personnel feel the involvement of the police is no longer warranted, does the SRO get to overrule the school personnel? This seems ambiguous within the MOU and clarity is sorely needed in this regard.
8. If SROs are not educators, one of the responsibilities is to prepare lesson plans for classroom instruction. This needs to be more clear as to which areas of curriculum the SRO is able to participate without a DPI license.
9. For schools that have eliminated SROs, what has happened?
10. How many calls and tickets do SROs respond to?
11. Who decided SROs should be in full uniform?
12. Who else in the district is going “above and beyond” as it relates to intervening with student disciplinary measures?
13. What are SROs doing when they are not on calls? What do they do when they are out outside of school?

Alternatives and What Ifs

1. What are the opportunity costs of eliminating or modifying the SRO program and what alternatives are there to the SRO program to meet student needs?
2. What will be the alternative to SRO's?
3. If we no longer have SROs in schools, how will building emergencies be handled? How will emergency service response time be impacted?
4. Even if SROs are removed from our schools, there will still be times when police officers will need to respond to situations. What plan would be in place? Would responses be handled by consistent officers, or would we be relying on beat officers? What kind of impact would different responding officers have on our students? What would be more beneficial for our students – consistency or new officers each time?
5. We have a year left in the contract. Would the La Crosse Police Department be willing to use the next year to implement changes in the program? Could the school district set new goals/expectations to see if they are met and working? Could we provide money in Fund 80 for the next school year and tweak it after changes are implemented in a trial year?
6. What is the status on how the school district is utilizing Fund 80 funding? If we can't/don't use for SROs, what options would be available for safety/disciplinary/counselors/truancy/community workers from Fund-80 funding? Are there other area/county cooperative agreements available?
7. Are there currently programs in place that we could expand when handling disciplinary issues? Could Fund-80 funds be used for this? If not, where could funding come from?
8. I've heard there are other programs in the community interested in replacing/supplementing DARE work. Possibly at little or no costs. For example, some

programming offered at the Coulee Council on Addictions could be brought into the schools. Can this be explored, possibly freeing up Fund-80 funding for additional community support staff?

9. What other community resources are available that could fill the need if the SRO positions were eliminated from schools?
10. If we remove SRO's, how do we make sure administrators and teachers still feel supported? Who fills that role?
11. What do SROs see as the future of the SRO program?