

BOARD MEMO

Date: March 24, 2022

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION x

Board Agenda: Yes x

No _____

FROM: Dr. Alicia Hart, Acting Chief of Facilities and Operations

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: FY2023 Funding Request, School Resource Officers

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 1: Systemic Alignment

Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

Focus Area 3: Strategic Plan Implementation

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

ACPS is focused on providing an equitable, high quality education to all students. The Department of Facilities and Operations (through the Office of Safety and Security Services) contributes to this overall strategic goal by the implementation of a security posture within our facilities that includes School Security Officers (funded by ACPS) and School Resource Officers (funded by the City of Alexandria).

ACPS is working to finalize the recommendation for the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) advisory group, including the incorporation of feedback received during the March 10, 2022 School Board meeting. The SLEP advisory group will ultimately help in deciding the best long-term approach as it relates to the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. We understand that the time necessary to develop, implement and receive recommendations from the SLEP advisory group will extend beyond June 2022, which is when the funding for the current SRO program will end. We are respectfully requesting a one-year extension to SRO program funding (through June 2023) for the purposes of:

- To allow the SLEP advisory group the opportunity to form, meet and make their recommendations on the school law enforcement partnership
- To conduct additional community engagement with impacted stakeholders

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- To allow the respective elected bodies the necessary time to make a sound determination regarding the future of the SRO program
- To maintain continuity of security posture until a final decision is made regarding the SRO program

BACKGROUND:

There has been ongoing discussion regarding the SRO program since 2020. Some milestones of this ongoing discussion include:

- Revised Memorandum of Understanding (November 2020)
- Removal of Funding for SRO Program by City Council (May 2021)
- Request by ACPS for SRO's to Return (October 2021)
 - Request made due to intensity of incidents occurring at schools
 - Requested as a support mechanism, not the only mechanism for incident relief
- Re-establishment of Funding for SRO Program by City Council (October 2021)
 - Funded through the end of June 2022
- Recommendation of SLEP Advisory Group by ACPS (October 2021)
- Initial SLEP Advisory Group Proposal (March 2022)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the funding request as it relates to the SRO program.

IMPACT: The request to extend funding for the SRO program for one additional year allows for sufficient time to form the SLEP advisory group and receive their recommendations, conduct additional community engagement, and to allow for robust discussions to occur between elected bodies prior to a final determination on the SRO program being made. Additionally, the continuity of security posture allows for us to promote secure school and campus environments for students, staff, families and all others while the most appropriate resource structure for safety within our facilities is determined.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A

REFERENCES:

N/A

CONTACT:

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