

## Public Comments for Virtual School Board Meetings #8

**My public comments are related to: \*** General Public Comments

**Topic \*** End School Resource Units

**Name \*** Nathan Sleeter

**What is your relationship to ACPS? \*** Parent/Guardian of an ACPS Student

**Enter your comments here which will be included under Public Comments on the Agenda:**

Hello, I strongly urge ACPS to follow the lead of Minneapolis Public Schools end the practice of police officers assigned to schools. Given the harm that police across the county have inflicted on Black citizens, it's clear that the presence of police officers when schools do reopen will have a potentially negative effect on learning. Further it was never a wise policy. Virginia is one of the worst ranked states with regard to the school to prison pipeline which officers in schools has been shown to exacerbate. Also, it should be clear to anyone that has worked with children that a 40 hour training program is nowhere near enough time to learn how to properly support children educational and emotional issues (taken from here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/police/info/default.aspx?id=9284>)  
) Thank you,  
Nate Sleeter

Below is the information from the link to the City of Alexandria website on the Alexandria Police Department's School Resource Unit;

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/police/info/default.aspx?id=9284>

The Alexandria Police Department is committed to the safety and well-being of all city school children. In 1997 the School Resource Unit (SRU) was created and supported by a strong partnership in conjunction with the Alexandria City Public School (ACPS), City Manager's Office, City Council and the Alexandria Police Department.

The SRU was created in 1997 with one School Resource Officer (SRO), who was assigned to G.W. Middle School. Due to the success of the program, the unit has steadily grown in size to the current staffing level of one SRO Sergeant and five SROs.

All officers selected to the SRU attend a 40-hour School Resource Officer School. This training is provided by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services- Center for School Safety. The SROs also receive additional specialized training from the ACPS and other training sources

on a wide range of subjects: dealing with kids who have emotional & educational issues, school policy, laws of search, seizure & arrest on school grounds, how to prevent and deal with an active school shooting incident and many other related topics.

The Alexandria SRU is a member of the Virginia Association of School Resource Officers (VASRO) and the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). Both of these organizations provides an outlet of networking with other SRO's, training and outreach services that our SRO's can use to assist them in providing superior service to the schools they serve.