

**South Middleton School District Board of Directors**  
**Safety & Security Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 01 August, 2018 – 6:00 PM**

- **Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions** – The meeting was called to order by Jon Still (Chair), with the following committee members present: John Greenbaum, Christopher Morgan, Mike Berk (ex-officio), Dr. Trisha Reed (IFES), Dave Bitner (YBMS), and Mark Correll (BSHS). Administration staff members included Dr. Matt Strine, Zach Gump, and Nicole Weber. One public attendee was also present.
  - This was the first meeting of the newly-established committee, the genesis of which the recent national focus on several high-visibility school shootings, such as at Parkland, Florida in March of this year, and the expected passage of PA HB1142, granting school board entities the ability to discuss sensitive security issues during executive sessions, if required.
  - It was made clear during the meeting that the purpose of this committee is to review and/or recommend fiscal and policy decisions regarding to school safety and security—not to supplant functions related to safety or security procedures falling under the purview of the Administration.
- **Review of Submitted SRO Grant Proposal**
  - In an effort to ensure that no available state funding was passed up, the Administration submitted a robust and detailed grant request via eGrant website to establish a School Resource Officer (SRO) program within the District. This program would create a full-time security and law enforcement position within the District, in cooperation with a local law enforcement agency (County or State). The submission deadline for this grant proposal was 31 July 2018.
  - Any awarded grant funds may be expended on salaries or compensation, training costs (up to 3% of total amount), and equipment (up to 2% of total amount).
  - Grant awards are projected to be announced in September. Grantees will subsequently be required to sign a contract with PDE's Office for Safe Schools. The District would also be required to commit to and sign an agreement that it will fund the SRO for at least two years. Should the General Assembly continue to fund the grant for school year 2019-2020, grantees would be eligible to receive 50% of the allocated amount without reapplication for the 2nd year.
  - If awarded, all funds received for school year 2018-2019 must be expended by 30 June 2019.
- **Discussion of SRO Program Cost/Benefit Analysis**
  - **Background:** A national focus on the subject of school safety and security has come about as a result of several high-visibility school shootings such as at Parkland, Florida and Santa Fe, TX. Measures to enhance school safety and security were debated in the PA State Legislature this Spring, and the recent passage of 2018 Act 39 (HB 1448) and of the PA State Budget set aside \$70 million in funding for public school safety.
  - The Committee discussed some of the specific requirements, benefits, and drawbacks of implementing an SRO program. Some of the salient points were as follows:
    - The interim Superintendent and members of his staff met with members of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department in April to discuss program specifics for establishment of an SRO program through their office. The District would be directly involved in all decisions for the specific hiring of a law enforcement officer to fill the SMSD SRO position, and would create a Memorandum of Agreement with the Sheriff's Department regarding the officer's duties and responsibilities. Examples of standard MOUs are provided by the state and have been discussed with the County Sheriff's

Department. The estimated cost of this program was approximately \$70k in the first year of execution, with approximately \$60k estimated for salary & compensation, and approximately \$10k estimated for training and equipment requirements. Subsequent year outlays would be reduced by any savings in training & equipping requirements, but increased by any pay and/or compensation raises.

- The Committee discussed the importance of hiring/assigning “the right” type of individual to fill the SRO position — someone who could connect with the students and teachers in the District and provide a positive impact by his or her presence, act as an effective mentor on safety and security matters. As such, an SRO would serve three main functions: **law enforcement officer, teacher, and counselor.**
- The Committee felt that, based on the current SMSD fiscal outlook, creation of an SRO position in the 2018-2019 school year would likely be dependent on being awarded the grant. However, it was noted by the Chair that priority for grant awards is given to those districts which have already established SRO Programs within state guidelines. Should the grant *not* be awarded, it is important to begin any discussion for future year funding early in the budget cycle.
- The Committee felt the Administration should continue to investigate execution actions in anticipation of possible grant award in the coming month, to include establishing a Memorandum of Agreement with either the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Department or Pennsylvania State Police. The State Police have, as of yet, not been queried as to their willingness to establish an SRO agreement with the District, but such discussions should be conducted prior to moving forward to ascertain
- The Committee felt that it was important to start a series of discussions in the public venue (i.e, General Board meetings), with the intent of determining both public and Board member support support for implementing the proposed SRO program if the grant is approved, or for funding such a program in future years, if it is not.

- **Executive Session**

- PA 2018 Act 39 (signed 22 June 2018) established the ability for school entities to “hold an executive session to plan, review, or discuss matters related to school safety, the disclosure of which, if conducted in public, would:
  - (1) be reasonably likely to impair the effectiveness of such measures; or
  - (2) create a reasonable likelihood of jeopardizing the safety or security of an individual or a school, including a building, public utility, resource, infrastructure, facility or information storage system.”
- An Executive Session was not required during this meeting.

- **Next Regularly Scheduled Committee Meeting\*** – Wednesday, November 7, 2018 @ 6:00 PM

\* Note: Should further Safety & Security Committee meetings be required to review policy or fiscal actions relating to the SRO grant, they will be announced at least 5 business days in advance.

*Respectfully Submitted by*

*Jonathan Still, Chair*