

I implore you not to remove the school resource officers from worthington schools. The officers provide invaluable assistance to the students, staff and parents. They are trained to help the schools in many ways such as active shooter training, conflict resolution and guidance to troubled kids. It would be impossible to replace the services they provide with teachers or civilians. I am sure no teacher wants to break up a fight in the lunchroom much less try to dissuade an active shooter from harming students. If the teachers have had to deal with a fight or the active shooter training, they would agree 100%. Those situations require intense training which the SROs have. They are taught to handle conflicts so no one gets hurt.

Furthermore, the SROs in our schools have not done anything to justify being removed. They are helpful and trustworthy officers. My son had an minor issue that turned into a positive conversation with the SRO. Please do not let the unprecedented times in our country cause you to make a knee jerk decision that could have grave consequences. A decision you would quickly regret if something critical happened at the school. Do not jump on the bandwagon because of the actions of one horrible officer in a completely different city and state. We all will need the help of an officer at some point in our lives and they take an oath to be there to help. If we no longer had the police to call, there would be many tragedies. Case in point is the little girl who almost drowned recently in a pond but was rescued by a Columbus police officer. Thank God for his swift response. Please do not remove the SROs.

- Robert Bootes

I have asked this board on several occasions to cite the evidence that justifies spending our limited resources on placing police in schools. As a social scientist I recently compiled a meta-analysis on the subject. The sum of previous research shows that placing police in schools raises the long-term arrest rate of students by at least .2 standard deviations. To put that number in context of academic achievement, a .2 standard deviation rise in SAT scores would mean everybody's score went up by 40 points.^[i]

In this moment, as the state cuts education funding, will you now propose cutting what we spend educating our students while maintaining what we spend policing them?

While research on police in schools does not show their presence makes schools safer, it does suggest police can make students more fearful.^[ii] Several current and former Worthington high school students have started a petition that asks this board to end your police in schools policy. More than 1,000 community members have added their names in support.^[iii] Please read some of the comments from students describing how they see the police presence in schools as an implied condemnation.

Indeed, what else could they conclude as they see the hostile behavior of police unfold each day in the news? Yesterday the principal of my daughter's school sent out an email with suggestions for resources to help parents discuss race and racism with their

children. Several of the resources specifically addressed racism in policing.^[iv] No educator would attack student journalists in Columbus with pepper spray. The Columbus Police did.^[v] When will this board acknowledge that the mission of policing is not congruent with the mission of education?

Let me leave you with one example that I would ask each of you to think about. A 2019 Maryland court case documented what happened to a high school student the court refers to only as S.K. S.K. made an untoward video of herself and shared it with two friends. The friends later became upset with S.K. and shared the video with other classmates. S.K. was soon approached by her school's police officer regarding the video. She thought he was seeking to help her prevent the spread of the video. Instead, the police officer used what she told him as the basis for her arrest and prosecution.

Here's a quote from the court ruling:

S.K. was under the impression that Officer Caballero met with her to stop the video from further distribution to other students. At no point during this meeting did Officer Caballero inform S.K. that she was considered a suspect for criminal activity.^[vi]

S.K., without a lawyer, without her parents, without even understanding that the officer was a threat to her freedom, told the officer exactly what happened. She was convicted of distributing child pornography (of herself) and ultimately subject to a rather invasive period of probation.

What procedures are in place to ensure that all Worthington high school students are aware that school police officers can use what the student says or does for purposes of prosecution? Are there classroom lessons on this point, assemblies, handouts? When I asked Mr. Banks that question, he was unable to cite any such programming.

One thing research about police in schools is very clear on – arresting a student is associated with a catastrophic drop in that student's academic performance and future economic prospects.^[vii] And yet, we are exposing our children to this threat and not even making a cursory effort to help them know their rights and protect themselves.

Please tell me – in a district where we charge children money to have access to a coach but we expose them to the threat of arrest for free – how this advances the mission of Worthington's schools. If security is a pressing problem in Worthington schools, hire security guards. You can even, as some districts do, hire coaches as security guards and solve two problems at once.

If in this moment you believe policing our students is the best way of educating them, I would be very curious how you can justify that conclusion.

-David Niven, Ph.D. , Granby Street

Hello. I am writing to show my support for keeping School Resource Officers in our schools. I am a transplant to Ohio (2005) and bought a house in Worthington in 2007 (or 2008, I don't recall the exact date). When I married and had kids, we realized that our house was not what we needed. Part of our house search criteria was staying in Worthington and we moved into our current house in Colonial Hills in 2016. This is our home and I want our schools to be safe.

The call to remove School Resource Officers came up from protests about violence against black people by the police. I understand the outrage and feel the same whenever there is unnecessary force, especially deadly force, used by the police. This is what I feel needs to change, not removing them from our schools.

That is my feeling though and not that of someone that is black. I asked some of my friends that are black what change they want. One wants to end black on black violence, but that doesn't directly have to deal with the topic. Others want **more community policing**. I see the School Resource Officers as community policing in our schools. To take them away from the schools would do the opposite of what is being sought. I ask you to continue having School Resource Officers in our schools.

I also understand that some feel the School Resource Officers were only seen or heard from when they had to arrest someone. Please also consider showing the community what else they do as well as increasing their utilization in community building and policing.

Thank you,
Brett Gissel

I am writing you to state that I am in support of our current SROs. I have done research and have posted this comment on the Petition Discussion. This is what I wrote.

Thank you for your time and consideration and all that all are doing for our children.

Rebecca Hermann
7035 Rieber St.

The following was my comment with links to high schools that had an active shooter stopped by the SRO. I believe that we should find out if they want their SROs removed.

When I commented earlier on this post, I stated that I believed that we should listen to our children. I was told by the writer of this post that is what this petition is.

However, I want to be clear. When I stated that, I meant our high school children. This petition and this post were created by young adults. They are graduates of our high schools from 2018 and 2020, with one that will be a Senior. These young adults, are not the children that I spoke of. To be clear, I am not insinuating that their voice does not matter, it does. But, to put everything in context, I believe that it is important to know who is writing this so that we can put a perspective on the petition.

The authors of this petition in order of graduation date:

Mollie Gladden, TWHS '18
Meena Jani, WKHS '19
Gordan Liu, WKHS '19
Maxim Estevez-Curtis, WKHS '19
Gene Kim, WKHS '19
Noor Chaudhry, WKHS and Linworth AP '19
Gayathri Mudigonda, TWHS '19
Caroline Hill, WKHS and Linworth AP '19
Madison Price, WKHS and Linworth AP '19
Noah Spaulding-Schecter, WKHS '19
Keegan Ballantyne, TWHS '20
Melissa Yu, WKHS and Linworth AP '21

When, I commented, I was referring to the (average aged), 15, 16, 17, and 18 years olds that will walk the halls of our high schools. I spoke of those children that have had to go through active shooter drills every year for several years now. I am speaking about them. I am speaking about their wants and needs.

This pandemic is leaving in its wake devastation that is unprecedented. Physical health, financial and economic health, and mental health among other things are all being tested beyond anything that many of us can compare to.

There is more depression now than ever. Suicide rates are up because of that and the isolation that we are all feeling, our young children are feeling it even more so with their social lives being turned upside down. The uncertainty of all of this is turning their lives into something unimaginable.

When our children get back to school, it will not be the same as it was. Not until there is a significant treatment, vaccine and/or cure. These high school children will not only be asked to act differently, but their entire world is going to be different with much uncertainty. Classes will be different, clubs will be different, sports will be different, hanging out will be different, dating will be different... I can go on. The point of that is

that many of the outlets that our high school children would have had will be changed for the short time and possibly longer.

Knowing that, we have to wonder how they will handle this and these changes. Will they be able to adjust? And if not, will they be more agitated, less compassionate, less connected? There are many unknowns that are coming in the next few years. And the mental health of Americans is yet another topic that needs to be addressed.

So, when I am saying that our children and their parents need to be considered, I do not mean young adults that have the luxury of no longer being asked to participate in yet another active shooter drill. I am speaking of the children and parents that are going to be living the high school years in the future. This fall and beyond.

This does not mean that there should not be evaluations for the SROs in our schools. What it does mean is that this petition needs to be seen for what it is, as coming from young graduates, and not current students. It is not a representation of those that need to evaluate the threats in their lives, assess them and respond to them.

The cost of the SRO was mentioned as well. When we consider the mental health aspect, the cost and the benefits from having a School Resource Officer has the possibility of being well worth it in some aspects. A report concluded that for every dollar invested in an SRO program, at least \$11.13 of "social and economic value was created."

Life in high school will not be what it was. The way children achieve grades, testing, scholarships will all be tested and challenged with the new normal that our children are going to have to deal with. The mental strain on our children in the coming years is unknown and we have no history to compare it to.

Yes, look into the SROs and evaluate if help or changes need to be made, but to remove these individuals without cause might not be in the best interest for the current high school students as a collective right now. I say this because this post, the notes in the petition and the letter itself mention only the Columbus Police Department (CPD) and their actions. It does not provide any information on the current SROs specifically. It requests that in lieu of an SRO they would prefer a 'Diversity Officer'. I recommend that intensive Diversity Training be set forth for our SROs to support them in their continued efforts.

In my comment above students were asked "How teens want to solve America's school shooting problem". I included the answer from one student... by Destyne, 12th grade, Frankton, Indiana -

She answered, "Many students are scared to go school and their parents are also scared. More safety precautions need to be taken at schools, including installing metal detectors and bulletproof windows and doors. Depending on the size of the school, at least three

to five armed security guards need to be at each school. When it comes to purchasing a gun, a person should have to take a test to show that they have general knowledgeable about gun safety as well as a test to show they know handle a firearm. Right now, gun regulations are very lenient, and it almost feels as if the government does not really care who purchases a firearm.” (As you will read and see in the article, Destyne is a black girl in the 12th grade. These are her thoughts.)

To carry that further, I am including schools where the SRO stopped an active shooter. These are the schools that I have located so far. To continue my conversation, I would suggest we ask these students that value that they put on having an SRO in their school. Many might tend to say, that this will never happen to us. Never and always are strong words. Are we willing to bet our lives on that?

Dixon High School

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/17/us/dixon-school-shooting.html>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-school-shootings-resource-officers-20180518-story.html>

<https://www.policemag.com/361709/illinois-sro-stops-attempted-school-attack-shoots-gunman>

Great Mills High School

<https://www.policeone.com/active-shooter/articles/armed-sro-stopped-md-school-shooting-2-students-shot-BvrrqaXiOdlQInqq/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/20/us/maryland-school-shooting-resource-officer-response-trnd/index.html>

Forest High School

<https://whnt.com/news/hero-officer-stopped-florida-school-shooter-in-3-minutes-sheriff-says/>

Valley High School

<https://www.wave3.com/2019/06/11/valley-high-school-resource-officers-recognized-catching-armed-student/>

Santa Fe High School

<https://www.businessinsider.com/santa-fe-shooting-school-resource-officers-praised-texas-2018-5>

Forest High School

<https://www.newsweek.com/deputy-jim-long-school-resource-officer-stopped-forest-high-school-shooter-895830>

Ben L. Smith Highschool

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/charlotte/news/2018/12/04/school-worker-sro-credited-for-potentially-preventing-shooting-at-smith-hs>

St. Mary's County high school

[School resource officer credited with stopping Maryland school shooter](#)

- Robert Hermann
-

My name is Tricia Jones. I am a lifelong Worthington resident, parent to biracial South Asian and European American children, and a graduate of Linworth Alternative Program and Thomas Worthington.

I support Board Member Charlie Wilson and the many parents and students in the district who want Student Resource Officers to be removed from our schools. The Board must consider the ample research available that SROs put students of color at risk for unintended, detrimental consequences.

It's not enough for Worthington Schools to think or say that we're not racist; we need to stand up and take meaningful action immediately.

- Tricia Jones
-

Dear Worthington School Board,

I write to you today in support of maintaining School Resource Officers as a critical partnership with Worthington City Schools.

I understand there is significant unrest in our country today given the murder of George Floyd and other alleged events related to the protests over the past ten days. However,

the worst time to make such critical decisions is when emotions are high. It is critical that the Board and the district weigh all of these issues. If a school teacher commits a heinous act against a student, we would not assume that the knee jerk response is to remove all teachers. This critical issue that impacts the safety of our children needs to be weighed carefully, without emotion and with logical discussion and consideration.

Our family has had children attend Worthington Schools for the past 26 years consecutively. During this time, when officers have been in the school, our children have said that it makes them feel safer. Of note, my current high school child has expressed significant concerns regarding removal of the SRO from the high school. Below are some bulleted items that are important to consider that support the SRO remaining in the schools:

- The officer has provided a significant safety net and has developed positive relationships with many of the students.
- He has also helped students through mentoring when an issue confronts them that they are not sure how to handle.
- Having an SRO in the building allows the individual to be more familiar with building layout and understanding student traffic flow which could be significantly important in the event of a major emergency.
- There have been multiple situations of students having weapons in the building. Drugs and student identification with gangs has also been a concern. While I understand that having an officer in the building has not deterred these situations 100 percent, what will happen if the officer is no longer in the building? Is the district prepared to handle a further increase in these activities?
- The SRO has helped students to better understand how to interact and relate to law enforcement. Relationship building is key to solving many of the problems we are confronting today.

There was significant discussion and feedback on several Worthington Pages this past weekend. I was disappointed at the anecdotal information that was supplied on these pages both related to the Worthington SRO and Worthington Police Department's interaction in our community. I implore the district to take the time to consider all facts and opinions related to this critical topic. I also noticed that much of the research being touted over this past weekend was from organizations that are not pro-police such as the ACLU and other institutions. I guide you below to some other resources which suggest that there is a role for the SRO in our schools:

- Examining the Role of School Resource Officers on School Safety and Crises Response Teams
 - https://cdn.fsbx.com/v/t59.2708-21/101794576_248646466417348_1648881302629253120_n.pdf/Examining-the-Role-of-School-Resource-Officers-on-School-Safety-and-Crisis-Response-

[Teams.pdf? nc cat=105& nc sid=0cab14& nc ohc=BJoEHt6YJAsAX8EJSj8& nc ht=cdn.fsbx.com&oh=f2cea80058374bfc797b4f775a3a2f84&oe=5EDFD9C6&dl=1](https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=277614)

- Brunch Patrol Seeks to Build Positive Relationships Between Students and Police
 - <https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=277614>
- Understanding School Safety and the Use of School Resource Officers in Understudied Settings
 - <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/254621.pdf>
- COPS Office and Police Foundation Release Report on Averted School Violence
 - <https://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?id=274986>

As a district we should never assume that we are immune to a major act of violence. Important factors noted in averting school violence include having a strong relationship between school staff and school resource officers (SROs) or local law enforcement, having an anonymous reporting system about specific concerns regarding school violence and promoting trusting relationships between school staff, students and SROs. Now is not the time to make rash decisions that could impact the safety of our children.

Please feel free to contact me at the number below for any additional input you may desire. And, please take the time to solicit feedback from the very teachers you employ. They should have a critical voice in this discussion.

Respectfully,

Melissa Winesburg, Ph.D.
Doctor of Criminal Justice

Dear Board,

I'm writing to let you know of my concern/shock regarding the discussion surrounding getting rid of the SRO. As a community and board, it was just a year or two ago we came to a decision to hire the SRO (I was at the meeting). Since then, I've seen only positive press about the SRO at Kilbourne. Additionally, I've heard positive comments from my kids and their friends. My daughter said yesterday, "who will be there to make sure the kids don't fight". I've also heard from staff members who feel safer not having to break up fights. In addition, my wife subs at all of the Worthington schools, including the high school, and she has no training or skills to break up fights. I hope and pray she never has to be in this situation. If she was put in a situation where she found herself in the middle of a fight, I worry about her safety, liability, and the schools liability if something were to go wrong. I feel the staff should not be put in this type of situation.

I'm frankly shocked that this is even a discussion since there was a gun found at the school last year. What is the plan the next time a gun is found at the school? A small group of parents may raise concerns about a pipeline to prison from the SRO... I'm curious how many students he personally arrested who went to prison? I would also be curious to ask the officer how many fights he may have stopped and/or prevented over the past year? Are your teachers trained in techniques to safely break up fights? Most parents are unaware this is up for discussion, however, they will find out when there's an emergency or bad fight at the school and there was no one trained there to help. I would think this is a liability to our school to not have someone onsite who is trained to break up fights.

Finally, it's my understanding that other schools in our area, who are of similar size, have SRO's. I'm curious why our kids should not have the same protection. Have there been any complaints over the past year? I would strongly encourage everyone to consider keeping the SRO. Anecdotally, I have heard from dozens and dozens of parents who are for the SRO. In a world which seems to be getting more violent recently, it just seems to make sense to keep an SRO.

Kind regards,
Eric Miller, MA, LPC

Hi my name is Sam Scott I attend Thomas worthington high school here in worthington. I feel our school resource officer is very important to our school. They do a great job interacting with our students and I've become friends with them. They also maintain a certain amount of peace. If any of you who are reading this have been in a school lunch it can be very chaotic and our school resource officers do a fantastic job diffusing the situation with out the use of violence.

-Sam Scott rising junior

Hello-

I have seen on social media that there is a planned discussion on SRO's in Worthington High School. I thought I would email to let you know my thoughts. I have 2 seniors and an incoming freshman in WKHS.

I am aware that there is much social upheaval going on but I would hope that cooler heads will prevail on these issues. While I am aware that there is real and perceived disadvantaged minorities, that is never the reason that I was more than okay to have a police officer in our school. Mass school shootings is the reason I wanted to have a police officer close. It gives me some peace of mind that there is someone on sight for this.

That being said, both of my older kids have given me their opinion on the SRO. One saw the officer arrive just as a pregnant teacher was trying to intervene in a fight and got punched in the stomach. The other feels that our SRO is very out of shape and if they are going to have one it should be one that is more effective and reactive to situations. If people want to increase funding to change the culture of drugs and fighting in our schools and mental health issues that has resulted in these kids coming to school with guns, I am all for that. But until we have that under control I would like to continue to have a SRO present at the school. It gives me peace of mind and to me that is worth the price.

- Sharon Cummings

Hello - this is a post from FB I shared - others said it may be good information for the SRO considerations. I hope they continue to keep them so our kids build a relationship with them and also feel safe!

Below is our experience:

I typically avoid posting, but this is one time I feel anyone who is in this thread should know. I have 3 kids who all graduated from TWHS in the last 4 years. I AM SPEAKING FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE. **All of them were in a room when a student pulled out a gun. ** My oldest daughter was thrown down a flight of stairs bc a fight broke out and she was walking to class - had to be taken by ambulance. *** The amount of kids bringing vodka in water bottles was regular in all grades. *** All 3 of them came home on more than one occasion bc of being scared of things seen/heard and no teacher is allowed to stop the nuckleheads. *** Won't even mention the amount of drugs etc - that started in Middle school. ALL 3 of them said they were scared to go to school many times - and if the police wasn't around - they did NOT feel safe. The very thing we need is to quit causing the division we supposedly hate - the adults are worse than the kids in this era. I now have 2 in the military - and have been hated on bc of our American flag buntings on the porch - never from kids - always the adults that can't get along. They are watching us! I felt someone with personal experience needed to speak up. I apologize if I offended anyone, I try to not cause more hate or be divisive - but being cop haters is NOT the answer and this is exactly what our kids are seeing in us - our words and actions are powerful and kids should not be scared to go to school.

- Deborah Tims

I am writing this letter in support of keeping SRO's in Thomas Worthington High School. I am the mother of Leila Bousedra, a rising Junior, and I am also a Columbus City School Teacher. Therefore, I have the perspective of both a high school parent and a teacher.

Having SRO's in our schools is a great practice that should continue. The officers I have witnessed first-hand help to keep a calm undertone in the school on a day to day

basis. If any type of violence erupts, which can happen in any school setting, it is reassuring to know that these officers can help to protect many people.

In addition, I have seen the students react quite positively to these officers. These very positive interactions help to build-up the relationship between our youth the the police. My daughter and her friends have always spoken highly of the resource officers they know. My students also have a great relationship with the resource officer in my school.

I believe removing the SRO's would have many more negative effects in comparison to the very positive effects these officers are having.

Sincerely, Ann Bousedra

I am writing to voice my opinion that SROs should remain in schools. Since school shootings, I now have to go through the third degree to pick my sons up to go to the doctor. I never agreed with all these changes, as I don't feel all the changes to access the school will stop a school shooting. So, now they want to remove the one professional trained to fully deal with a school shooting.

Also, the high school fights are violent. Your teachers aren't able to break up a fight between bigger stronger kids and they will get hurt. What happens when when one teacher gets hurt and presses charges against a student? That should play out well in social media.

I never really get involved in things like this because I don't feel anyone listens, but heck, I thought I would try. The pressure of Black Lives Matter is strong and important, but don't let it be used to over react like schools did with school shootings. School shootings are a mental health issue and Black Lives Matter is a social issue, deal with that not putting lipstick on a pig to say you did something.

Mother of three boys in Worthington Schools,
Denise Barnes

As a parents of a middle schooler and an incoming Freshman at Thomas, as well as a substitute school nurse in Worthington Schools, my husband and I feel it is vital to continue to have School Resource Officers in our schools. They play an integral role in ensuring physical safety along with an important resource to students. The Officers help in guiding peer relationships, mental health support, and conflict resolution skills. Please listen to your administrators as they are in the building everyday and continue to keep our children safe and supported.

Thank you,
Krista and Alex Calfee

Dear Worthington Board of Education Members,

We are Worthington students and alumni who are concerned about our district's contracts with the Columbus and Worthington Police Departments given the history of police violence that is now at the forefront of national discourse.

We have written a letter, signed by 1,424 students, parents, alumni, teachers, and community members, demanding that the district cut ties with the police, promote diversity, and stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

We ask that the school board reads this letter in its entirety and addresses our demands at the meeting on June 8th. The letter is attached to this email. A list with the majority of signatures is also attached to this email; however, we request that you do not share these names publicly. You can also view the petition [here](#).

Thank you for your time.

Gordan Liu, WKHS '19
Meena Jani, WKHS '19
Maxim Estevez-Curtis, WKHS '19
Mollie Gladden, TWHS '18
Gene Kim, WKHS '19
Noor Chaudhry, WKHS and Linworth AP '19
Gayathri Mudigonda, TWHS '19
Keegan Ballantyne, TWHS '20
Caroline Hill, WKHS and Linworth AP '19
Madison Price, WKHS and Linworth AP '19
Noah Spaulding-Schecter, WKHS '19
Melissa Yu, WKHS and Linworth AP '21

Hello,

It has come to our attention that there is a group of Worthington residents that are trying to remove School Resource Officers from the high school buildings. We support the SRO's to remain in the buildings. The SRO at Thomas Worthington is very much a part of their school community, makes the building safer and teachers and students speak very highly of him. He knows the kids and can stop disruption before it happens.

If the SRO is removed, we put yet another responsibility on teachers and administration. The district is large and unfortunately, we have incidents that occur almost daily that the SRO needs to be involved.

Please choose to keep our schools safe. Why fix what is not broken. What will your answer be to parents if we ever have a major incident and you chose to remove the SRO from the buildings?

Thank you,
Colleen Stoller

Dear Worthington Board of Education,

As a former/current Worthington community member and/or student of Worthington City School District; we stand together as Worthington students and community members demanding for you to address the issues of racism and a lack of diversity present across Worthington City Schools, not only at the next Worthington Board of Education meeting on June 8th, but persistently in the coming years.

An issue that has recently been brought to light has been racist comments from Worthington students. One specific example spread through social media; two videos of a Worthington high school student saying racial slurs have surfaced. Multiple messages between this student and a few of their peers also surfaced with the student using not only racial, but ableist slurs. Although this was only one student, it is not an isolated incident. There are undoubtedly many more students in our schools using these slurs. Without these statements being condemned, students will continue to believe that using racial, ableist, and other slurs are acceptable. Using racial slurs also violates the rules set forth in the Worthington City Schools High School Handbook. Using racial slurs violates the rules outlined in the Race/Color Harassment and the National Origins/Ancestry sections located on page 27.

Another major issue that has been recently brought into the light by Worthington students is the largely varying amount of diversity between Thomas Worthington High School and Worthington Kilbourne High School. According to publicschoolreview.com, the average Ohio school diversity score is a 0.48. This scoring scale is explained as "the chance that two students selected at random would be members of a different ethnic group. Scored from a 0 to 1, a diversity score closer to 1 indicates a more diverse

student body.” Thomas Worthington had a diversity score of 0.55 during the 2019 - 2020 school year, seven percent higher than the state average. However, Worthington Kilbourne scored a 0.43, five percent lower than the state average. This means that the diversity gap between the two high schools is twelve percent. However, most ethnic groups only vary by one to two percent of the total population between the two high schools. The largest gaps between the high schools are in the Caucasian and African American groups. 75% of the students attending Worthington Kilbourne during the 2019 - 2020 school year were Caucasian, ten percent higher than the percentage at Thomas Worthington, 65%. Thomas Worthington also had African American population that made up a total of 13% of the student body and Worthington Kilbourne only had 7% of the student body represented by African American students.

The clear difference between Thomas Worthington and Worthington Kilbourne is the lack of diversity at Worthington Kilbourne while Thomas Worthington has a larger percentage than the state average in three out of four minority categories represented on the website. However, the issue begins in elementary and middle schools across the district. Worthington Estates Elementary School is the largest elementary school that feeds into Thomas Worthington, and Worthington Hills is the largest elementary school that feeds into Worthington Kilbourne High School. Worthington Estates received a diversity score of 0.56 where Worthington Hills received a diversity score of 0.31.

Without being consistently shown diversity in a school setting, students in Worthington City School District will continue to grow up without exposure to different ethnic groups and cultures. As a school district, it is the responsibility of Worthington City Schools to provide an atmosphere that embraces and educates students on diversity and acceptance. The primary purpose of school is to prepare students for a successful future. Without fixing the systemic racism present in Worthington schools, students will not be prepared for the diversity of the world and will continue to turn a blind eye to the issue of racism that is prevalent not only in the United States, but around the world.

So, the questions students and community members would like the Worthington Board of Education to address are as follows:

- How will you work to dismantle systemic racism throughout Worthington City School District?
- How will you create a more diverse environment throughout the Worthington City School District?
- How will you support and nurture minority groups in Worthington City School District?
- How will you educate and inform students on issues regarding racism and racial slurs?

Sincerely,

Riley Adams, Evelyn Ambler, Mitchell Ament, Caitlin Anderson, Ameer Aqel, Madison Ashley Sjanneke Baker, Julianne Ballog, Shahil Bhagat, Stella Bixler, Korey Black, Lisa Boyle, Stacy Brannan-Smith, Kate Browning, Katelyn Burns, Jack Caine, Bailey Cannon, Kylee Cannon, Emma Carberry, Gabriel (Gabo) Cassell-Ramirez, Gloria Chan, Althea Chan, Ava Chapman, Lyla Chea, Hannah J. Cochran, Eve Coe, Susan Ruhl Collier,

Amanda Cooksey, Ruby Culp, Danielle Curtiss, Erin Dalton, Craig Dalton, Jacob DeRodes, Sarah Detling, Natalie Diebert, Kate Djupe, Kate Durham, Morgan Edwards, Nada Elhajomar, Marcela Estevez, Andy Falter, Erin Finnerty, Grace Florence, Annette Garcia, Ethan Gerding, Mollie Gladden, Merydith Greene, Genevieve Gualtiere, Mackenzie Hanna, Stephanie Harless, Nat Harper, Angie Harper, Anna Harper-Hess, Abigail Hartsell, Mallory Hartsell, Kate Haydel-Brown, Charlotte Helm, Isabel Henderson, Emily Herbe, Josh Hickman, Michael Hilliard, Roschelle Holcomb, Clair Hollback, Lily Houser, Lydia Hoyt, William Hutchison, Hana Imarhane, Stephen Jackman, Meena Jani, Mary Jimenez Jane, Tricia Jones, John S. Jones, Nataliya Kallergis, Marie Kaloko, Doug Keown, Rachel Kneessi, Emily Koch, Beth Kowalczyk, Alec Levine, Maia Lin, Noah Long, Owen Looker, Sydney MacGilvray, Magdalena Manrique, Rafael Manrique, Anne Marazita, Jesus Mares, John Matthews, Grace Matthews, Lilly Matthews, Luke Maynus, Amy Mayo, Emma McCandlish Lindholm, Marina McCreary, Elizabeth Katherine McDaniel, Emma McKeegan, Tiffany McCoy, Kathryn Mierzejewski, Carson Miller, Tiena Miller, Gilberto Martin Molina Badillo, JD Mooney, Jazlyn Moreno, Madison Morgan, Ethan Morris, Trinity Murphy, Olivia Murray, Arul Naveen, Justin Nawman, Ellie Needleman, Stephen Niezgoda, Christy Niezgoda, F. Nutor, Dean Orloff, Cassidy Oyer, Rachel Pace, Genevieve Pappalardo, Sam Parker, Macy Patton, Morgan Pelt, Lawrence Pelt, Zoe Peveler, Grace Pflaum, Nataly Pham, Anna Poklar, Lucy Porter, Mia Potenzini, Isabella Potenzini, Madison Price, Sabrina Ramsay, Allison Rayner, Matthew Reed, Lauren Richner, Julianna Rittenberg, Amber Robinson, Ava Ruocco, Zane Ryan-Hart, Lesley Saeed, Phoebe Saunders, Alana Sayat, Jordan Schaffranek, Jessica Schweickart, Michaela Sershen, Rasili Shank, Renuka Shank, Abigail Sharkis, Katie Sheridan, Daisy Short, PJ Shotwell, Geoffrey Smith, Avery Smith, Abigail Snelling, Comelia Soltanirad, Ellen Speicher, Carmen Staton, Paige Stephens, Abigail Stevenson, Anna Stevenson, Jo Suddendorf, Olivia Taylor, Grace Tchounguen, Claire Teets, Izzy Thomas, Beth Thompson, Mitchell Tomazic, Kelsey Tyrrell, Shea Versele, Dylan Vilardi, Lillian Wade, Charlie Wallace, Louis Weiss, Hannah Welch, EJ Wendt, Alaina Wilkerson, Maddie Wilkin, Kate Wiselogel, Grant Witherspoon, Reid Wollett, Jae Wood-Binkley, Nevin Woods, Molly Yeager, Vanessa Young, Melissa Yu, Erin Zelinski-Righter, Emily Ziem

School Board Members,

I have seen posts on social media regarding a petition to end contracts between our school district and the Worthington and Columbus Police Departments. I would like to offer my immediate support of KEEPING the contracts we have in place with our local Police Departments.

Our country, and our community, is going through a time of reflection and change. A change for the better. I believe that adding a District Diversity Officer would be a wonderful addition to any and all school districts to allow growth of inclusion in our schools and to foster the important discussions we are all having. I do not believe adding this position would take the place of an SRO. By removing resource officers from our

high schools, I feel that we would be showing our students, and our community, that we do not believe in the GOOD. We would be focusing on the negative as well as taking away any opportunity for our students to have those very important discussions with local police.

I have two students in Worthington City Schools. I want for them what I want for each and every student...a learning environment where they feel safe, accepted, heard and loved.

The discussion of how we can improve our schools for all students is needed. I look to find out more information on what future contracts with our Police Departments include and what a District Diversity Officer would bring to our schools before having any formal opinion on replacement or addition with future contracts.

I am sure that the Board will keep the safety and well being of all of our students in mind during these discussions. I ask that you keep all community members informed and allow our voices to be heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ali Bahns

Worthington School Board and interested parties:

I would like to voice my support to maintain the Worthington Schools relationship with Columbus and Worthington Police Departments. I believe that SROs are a vital part of the ongoing safety of our students.

I am the parent of a student that currently attends Thomas Worthington, and would like the board to consider all opinions before making any decisions.

Thank you,
Rob Streno

I trust the administrators and the school staff's first hand experience that SRO's are a valuable asset to our students safety and well being. I believe that removing our SRO's would be detrimental.

In support,
Laurie Mottice, Mother of a rising Junior at TWHS

Dear Worthington School Board,

I am a Worthington resident and have 3 children attending Worthington schools. I have a daughter at Thomas Worthington High School, a son at KMS and another son at Wilson Hill elementary.

Some of you may be aware of a recent petition that asks Worthington schools to cut ties with the Columbus Police Department (CPD). I am writing to let you know that I AM in favor of this. I DO believe that Worthington schools SHOULD cut ties with the CPD. Even if not every school uses an SRO from the CPD I believe it is in Worthington's best interest to cut ties with them entirely. I wanted my voice to be heard on this subject.

Thank you for your attention.
Lauren Durant

Hello

As a prior food service supervisor for Worthington Schools please explain the fund transfer of \$41,040.29 from the General Fund to the Food Service Account. Please correct me if I am wrong, but I would expect any transfer from the General Fund to the Food Service Account due to Covid 19 shortfall would be greater than the amount seen here.

In the past, there have not been transfers from the General Fund to the Food Service Fund.

- Rebecca Dunn

I am in support of continuing SRO in schools. One bad policeman does not mean all are bad.

- Kelly Savage

I am writing to express my support for maintaining the school resource officer position in the Worthington School District high schools. I think it would be a mistake to eliminate a position that seems to be working well, just because anti-police sentiments are running high at the moment. If young people are afraid of the police, getting rid of opportunities to interact with police in positive ways would only make that worse.

I can't speak for how things worked with CPD at WKHS, but I do know that at TWHS, prior to the creation of the school resource officer position, WPD would send whatever

officer was available to the school when police were required. This would result in some inconsistencies in how incidents were handled. The default course of action would usually consist of the officer obtaining the student's information and statements from staff, returning to the police department to write up juvenile court charges and the report, then moving on to his or her next assignment. The SRO is more likely to know the circumstances surrounding the student and if perhaps a better course of action is warranted that would avoid the juvenile criminal justice system. The SRO works closely with school staff on a daily basis. He is more likely to follow the advice of the educational professionals because of this relationship. In essence, I feel the school has more control of situations because of this relationship with the SRO than they do working with random WPD officers responding to the school.

The SRO also is more likely to hear of problems brewing in the school. This gives the opportunity to take measures to prevent incidents before they occur. The SRO's presence can also be helpful if a critical incident occurs. That school is so big and spread out, which slows down the WPD response. From a tactical standpoint, having an officer already there is a huge benefit.

I've read online some of the arguments proponents have used in their push to get rid of the SRO's. Some have posted links to various studies against the use of SRO's. Our school board should consider how the SRO position is working here, in our district. These studies aren't relevant here unless they are addressing how the program works here. Some of these same proponents have demonstrated with their posts their hatred of the police. They have even said all police are bad. I can only wonder if they don't want their children exposed to good officers like the SRO's because they are afraid their children might not grow up to be cop-haters like themselves. Please don't jeopardize the safety and well-being of our students and staff just to appease people filled with hate.

Thank you for your time.
Tim O'Donnell

Dear School Board Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to support having a SRO in our school. As a parent, it certainly makes me feel much safer. I know the children feel safer too.

This is my second time through TWHS. I've always thought at the bell for change of periods, all teachers should step into their doorways or into the hall for adult presence. I know this is not practiced. I understand it's not convenient for the staff, but I do believe it would aid the SRO immensely. I'm not suggesting that teachers tend to issues, I just believe adult eyes on them might deter some bad behavior.

Thank you for your time and effort on all things that benefit our children!

Sincerely, Lynn Wentz

I am writing to express my desire to keep the SROs in Worthington schools. They are performing a critical role in our schools and you have quality individuals serving our students. Please contact me if you need any additional support.

Thank you, Mark Weber

Dear School Board,

I am writing as a concerned taxpayer and retired teacher with grandchildren in the Worthington Schools.

I hope you will retain the school resource officers in the high schools. Their presence is important for the safety and security of our students and staff. I was so pleased when you added these resource officers to our high schools now please do not allow these turbulent times cause you to lose sight of your vision of protecting our learning community. A safe environment is necessary for optimum learning to take place. Thank you for serving our community.

- Sue Kimbrel

Dear Worthington School Board Members,

I have already submitted this email to each of the board members, but because it has been requested to send comments to this particular email address, here it is again.

My name is Colleen Yurich and I am a resident of Worthington, a parent of students who attend and graduated from Worthington, and I am a high school teacher in a neighboring district. I am writing to you today not only as a parent who is interested in the safety of our schools, but also as a teacher who works in a school similar to TWHS.

My concern is that I have recently seen multiple postings on FaceBook suggesting (even demanding) the removal of our SRO's in the school district and ending the partnership between schools and the police. As both a parent and teacher, I vehemently oppose the idea of ending this relationship and getting rid of our SRO's. Security Resource Officers play an important role in schools by building relationships with young people, assisting the administration in developing a plan if there was an emergency (remember school shootings?), because of their police background they are trained to deal with weapons and drugs in ways teachers and administrators can not, they work with guidance counselors to provide students with referrals to outside services, and the list goes on and on. The position of an SRO cannot be filled by a retired teacher or a parent volunteer (as is suggested by some.) I urge you to listen to the administrators in this district and trust their judgement as to what is necessary in the schools to keep our children and the adults who work there safe. Thank you for your time, Colleen Yurich

Hello,

I am greatly in favor of the school resource officers at the HS level. I have two children in the Worthington School District and their safety while in school should be considered above all else.

thank you

- Sean Gallagher

I wanted to lend my support for the SRO at TWHS. As an active PTSO member for 6 years, I was in the high school a lot. I would often see Officer Ord out in the hallways with a bunch of kids talking, laughing or just saying "Hello". It's been my observation that he has a great rapport with the kids and is exactly what we want in trying to rebuild relationships among all people, no matter their race, religion or job. I believe he's a good officer, a good role model and what this city should use as a good example for how policeman should be -understanding, communicative, and engaged.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barb Curran

I am a TWHS parent and I am grateful for the relationship the school administration has with local law enforcement. I support keeping SROs.

Sincerely, Kathy Harper

I support having School Resource Officers in our Worthington Schools. I believe removing them would be a grave mistake. Our Worthington School Teachers should NOT be charged with policing our schools. We live in an angry Society and should not risk injuries to our children.

Sandra Saboley
6862 Hayhurst St.

As the parent of two students at TWHS and a taxpayer in the City of Worthington, I support the continuation of the contract with WPD (and CPD) for SROs at TWHS (and WKHS).

Should you need additional support written more formally, I am happy to do so.

Regards,
Cathe Moog
178 Abbot Ave.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-met-school-shootings-resource-officers-20180518-story.html>

If only to save 1 life - #itsworthit
Jodi Fox

Good afternoon,

This email is intended to encourage continued use and budgeting for school resource officers. My children feel an added sense of security with them on campus at TWHS, a school of 1800 individuals.

Thank you,
Nicole and Kevin Carrie

Please keep SROS in the high schools. Thank you
- Jami Schmidt

I would like to request that SRO's be maintained in the Worthington schools. I would like to know that they are POC and serve as an additional support network for all students rather than . Ultimately, I would like there to be someone at Thomas who interacts with students, but is on hand in those moments of adversity or danger. As an educator myself, having an SRO in my building gives me a sense of comfort.

Thank you,
Michelle Neely

Hello,

I am writing regarding the SRO issue that has been brought up on Facebook and probably other social media platforms and seems to be very controversial. I am against cancelling the WSD contract with officers, it seems that if there were issues with the specific officers that are in Kilbourne and Thomas that those would have at the very least been mentioned prior to June 5th. I mean we've been off school since mid March this year so obviously this issue is a broader issue, which is fine but those that proposed this petition are all over the place in the reason for proposing or endorsing including one person stating when they took their children to the protest in downtown Columbus and there was tear gas and rubber bullets shot at the crowd and now her kids are afraid of the police and this is why our schools should not have resource officers. To me this is an

incredibly personal story and experience but unrelated to the daily appearance of the current SRO in our high schools.

I also feel that the "research" that is out there would be extremely hard to quantify. How can one quantify something (or many things) that may be being prevented by having SRO in our high schools.

I also looked up other districts and most others surrounding Worthington and most have officers and some have even had SRO for 15 years in the district, such as Dublin, they even have SRO at their middle schools. I don't see how Worthington could possibly think it's beyond safety, above safety and willing to risk something happening at our high schools by firing our SRO. I believe the parents, students and staff that are CURRENTLY at the highschools need to be taken seriously and need to have their voices heard but not at the expense of safety for ALL students.

Thank you,

Sara Sizemore

(I do not have a HS student so maybe my opinion is not as important but I do have 2 worthington elementary students and decisions that are made now might affect them at some point and honestly I think a decent amount of the opinions floating around do not have HS students at this time either)

While the country is at a crucial point regarding racial unrest and treatment, police brutality and all other social issues are in play today. I would like to speak up in the support of the school resource officers. They play a very important role in our students lives. My son has developed a great relationship with the TWHS SRO and often updates me on their discussions. He has grown through this relationship and knows that he always has someone to turn to. He relays stories of what occurred at school and how the SRO was there to offer support or diffuse a situation. I am aware of other situations where the SRO was able to step in and help prevent major issues. As you consider the request to remove SRO's from our schools. Please remember that we don't want to use a broad brush when reviewing our support teams. The few that provide a black eye should not overshadow all of those that do their jobs very professionally.

Thank you

Dennis Bryant

As a WSD resident and taxpayer and mother of a future student, I wanted to express my support for the presence of SROs in our schools. I don't think it should be the teacher's responsibility to de-escalate physical altercations, approach students who bring weapons to school, and other emergent situations where safety is concerned. In these instances, seconds count – so having a first responder already on premises who is professionally trained and equipped to respond is crucial.

Thank you, Rachel Olson

I am hearing that there is some dissent regarding the presence of SROs in the Worthington high schools. I'm a parent of 3 WKHS students and SROs are NEEDED within our schools. I'm an educator and have been involved in breaking up fights and dealing with issues beyond my pay grade and training. The presence of a SRO adds a professionalism to the building so teachers can teach. I am saddened and a bit fearful to hear that there is a movement to oust SRO. This is short sighted and possibly a gut reaction to today's political and cultural atmosphere instead of a well thought out decision.

Please continue with the decision made 2 years ago and keep SRO in the Worthington high schools.

Thank you,
Kristy Pinschenat

It has come to my attention the need to express my opinion in the value to KEEP RESOURCE OFFICERS in Worthington Schools.

The safety of my kids comes first when in your schools. Only an armed official can guarantee their safety if a hostile situation arises. We unfortunately live in a an unforgiving world.

Please take this matter seriously. Worthington Schools are already understaffed in the mental health department - please don't let this be another area we are underserved.

Respectfully,

A mother with 3 Worthington Students

Have a great day!
Raina Doby

Dear Worthington School Board,

As a Worthington parent of 3 kids, I wanted to write and share my thoughts regarding the Safety Resource Officers in our schools. I applaud you for bringing them into our schools and would very much like for them to remain. Two of my kids have graduated from TWHS and the youngest will be a junior there this Fall. All three of them have told me at different times during their HS years that they had moments of not feeling safe. As a parent, that saddened me so much to hear that their every day learning environment caused them fear. It didn't come solely from the thought of school shootings, but more from every day happenings such as the fights, the drugs, weapons snuck in, the bullying, the aggressiveness of some of their fellow students, stories of what goes down by the bus stop, parents even encouraging their kids to fight. It's ridiculous that this all happens in our schools here in Worthington, but it's their reality.

When I drop my son off at school in the morning, it gives me some comfort seeing the police car in the parking lot. I do not feel that teachers or school staff should be the ones expected to get in the middle of these situations. We need them to focus on classroom time and educating our children. That is their passion and what they were educated to do. Police are well trained and educated for these negative situations and I feel much better that they are in our schools and available for when these situations arise.

Just wanted you to know that you have my full support of maintaining the SROs in Worthington schools. I feel it is a very valuable and needed resource.

Thank you for listening,
Julie Hoover

I'd like to place my vote against keeping the student resource officer in our schools in Worthington. Please see the following petition for reasoning that I have signed. We need more mental health resources and less policing.

https://www.change.org/p/worthington-schools-students-worthington-schools-cut-ties-with-cpd?utm_content=cl_sharecopy_22619592_en-US%3Av8&recruiter=712479599&recruited_by_id=66bd5a60-29be-11e7-98bf-cd0277dfcb49&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_abi&utm_term=psf_combo_share_abi&fbclid=IwAR18fxY1sSla9fUf_Uk8YMgSehg7pwvVqZDU4v7HWwp4BDXi6nyJ6za7ICg

I own the home at 6151 Middlebury Dr E and my oldest will attend evening street this fall.

Melissa Malinky.

As parents of 3 Worthington students, we would like to voice our opinion that SRO are a benefit to our school system. We ask that you keep them in our district... It's Worth it.

Thank you,
Lori And Greg Kociba

Board- Thank you all for your continued service through what may be one of the most unsure, unique and emotionally tense times our schools have seen. COVID surely provided ample time for stress and uncertainty to build - all with related opinions which we know have been sometimes {over} shared in formats not necessarily conducive to the healing or positive forward movement our world so desperately needs.

The addition of the racial tension heightened to new levels during an already stressful pandemic has our community making knee jerk, pendulum swinging responses. Some of these responses are appropriate, overdue and needed. Some are filed by emotion and not as much full picture consideration.

I believe the idea and push to sever ties with the WPD & CPD to terminate school resource officers in our schools is one of those reactions not fully considered.

Many who are now petitioning for the SRO to be removed were the ones petitioning for SRO to be added. This confusion swing in emotion is filed by fear and wanting everyone as safe and respected as possible. We all want that. But the removal of the SRO doesn't ensure additional security or respect. Nor does the presence of an SRO remove respect. We can have SRO helping you change the culture , helping to build rapport within our youth and helping change perceptions of officers.

Re: the format of these plans- I don't believe a petition is ever a way to solve something. We need discussion- understanding- listening and respect. We are in unsure times where many are marching against judgement and hate while many of those same people are hating and judging our police forces. We need to stop creating walls between groups and instead tear those down to build bridges of connection between us all. Cliche- but true.

I am fully in support if opening dialogue, but it must also have listening. I believe the role of the SRO is an important one our students, schools and community need. They provide great value- more than "just safety".

I don't pretend to have the answers and I am grateful for you who work tirelessly to listen and help guide decisions. I also appreciate the difficulty you have, especially in these social media and opinions flying faster than ever. My purpose here is not to provide THE answer, it to share my belief in the importance the SRO provide.

Thank you!

Lesley Cross

Worthington School Board:

As a parent with children in our school system I want to express my support of retaining SRO officers in our high schools.

I don't believe that the petition going through our community is unfounded, however I do feel that the impact has not been fully explored beyond addressing the current social climate.

The officers were put in place as an insurance policy against a separate social challenge

plaguing the US: active school shootings. Having SROs in schools across the country has been proven to thwart would-be shootings on multiple occasions. As a parent and member of this community I feel strongly that this resource needs to remain in place for this reason.

Beyond this chief reason, our school staffs also need this support for students who may become physically violent. Principals, Deans of students, and teachers are not properly trained to deal with physical violence in the way that an SRO is; nor is it in their job description. Additionally, they lack the ability to make physical contact with students (for fear of litigation, and I'm sure as policy) further limiting their ability to mitigate a violent situation.

If ties are cut with the CPD, then a private resource should be put in place to fill this necessary role.

Thank you,
Chris Whitham
210 W South St

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of 4 students enrolled in WCS, I beg you to keep SROs in schools. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the elimination of mass gatherings, there have been no mass shootings/attacks in recent months. I worry that people have forgotten that these things happen, and will happen again once restrictions continue to be loosened. While I am sickened, digusted and saddened by what has happened in our country in the past few weeks, I am hopeful our country has taken a positive turn and police reform will continue and have a positive impact moving forward. However, I think it is irresponsible to take SROs out of our schools. I demand my children be safe in school, and having a SRO in the schools is a way to do that. It can also be an opportunity to develop a way to connect those SROs to the students and begin to bridge the communication gap with someone in law enforcement that the kids interact with on a daily basis. Instead of completely severing ties with WPD & CPD, use this as an opportunity to open dialogue and begin healing.

Respectfully, Jason Dote

I'm writing to voice my support for the student resource officers at both Worthington High Schools. I have 5 children in this District and 2 of them are currently in High School at TWHS. I feel that having a SRO in the buildings is a safe choice and my children feel safer knowing one is there in the event of an emergency.

Thank you, Meredith Murphy

I hear that a topic of conversation Monday may be removing SROs from the schools. I feel strongly on many levels that this is a bad idea and you will be saying to the parents of the kids in your care that you do not value their safety or take responsibility for it. I take comfort knowing there is a level of professional security with these folks in place. This seems like a voluntary leap backwards in taking responsibility for the safety of our kids. Is there somewhere I can go on the district website to get more info on why this is even a topic up for discussion?

Thank you.

- Stephanie Savage

To the Worthington School Board:

I appreciate your continued dedication to the community you serve.

2020 has presented challenges at every turn. Responding to Covid-19 required quick action and unprecedented agility. However, a decision regarding SROs at the high schools – and separately how we cultivate diversity – are not decisions that should be rushed into. These are separate challenges that need to be addressed pragmatically.

I trust that you as well as the principals and staff you've hired to manage our schools will balance the loudest voices of today with decisions that are best for Worthington Schools for years to come.

Sincerely,
Angie Beier