

THIS IS AN INFORMATION PAPER

TO: HARDIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: TERESA MORGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: MAY 19, 2022

SUBJECT: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

FACTS: The district currently employs nine full-time school resource officers (SROs) with three being at the high schools and EC3 and one at College View Campus. Because of the increase of concern for the safety in schools, additional training needs for new SROs, and the need to have a seasoned SRO to sub on days when a full-time SRO is unavailable, the need to employ more SROs has been reviewed with Hardin County Schools (HCS) and the Hardin County Sheriff's Department. The SROs each have additional school sites which they patrol and respond to in the event of need or call for assistance. HCS currently pays for SROs salaries through a Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding (MOA/MOU) with the Hardin County Sheriff and Elizabethtown Police Departments. The district receives federal funds through Title IV, Safe & Healthy Kids, and Safe Schools to assist with salary and benefit payment. The combination of the Safe Schools, Title IV, and Safe & Healthy Kids funds has been reviewed to work with the Sheriff's Department to add additional resources for the 2022-2023 school year.

The additional "rover/travel" SRO position would allow one trained SRO to sub at any HCS school that had a vacancy SRO for a school day or to provide additional training, support, and assistance at schools during the day where the need occurs. Currently, a substitute SRO will be needed at two (2) schools next year until a full-time SRO replacement can be hired. SRO training will have to take place through the state Department of Justice and having the seasoned SRO with training will assist in coverage and training needs for all schools within the District.

Salary increases will go into effect for SROs in the 2022-23 school year as the salary tables at the local law enforcement agencies have increased for all three local and state-level police officers. Salary increases are necessary in order to maintain the current workforce, remain competitive with surrounding law enforcement districts, and retain the trained SRO staff who work within school buildings and students on a daily basis. Retaining a trained SRO staff will increase support for the students and schools, allow schools to work preventatively instead or reactively, and provide safety and security within the schools and surrounding properties.

The hiring procedures for the new SROs will remain the same as the other SROs in the district through MOA/MOU with the respective department.