

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Dan Meyer

From: Dr. Caroline Pate-Hefty

Date: 4/9/2025

Subject: SRO MOU



As noted in the School Resource Officer Agreement, item 3, the term of the current agreement expires on June 30th of 2025. We have made multiple attempts through meetings in the last two years to change the language at the recommendation of our Board attorney. There has been no resolution following these meetings. According to the agreement, we are officially notifying you in writing before May 1st (as per the MOU) that we are ending the existing agreement. (This is to protect Whitewater Unified School District in the case we are required to bid out other police departments or services.) We have attached the language that we have provided on 3 occasions that aligns with our Board policy. If you would like to extend this agreement, we suggest you get redlined changes back to us immediately. Finally, you will need to provide a resolution on three major issues that have surfaced in the life of this MOU:

1) Failure on the part of Whitewater Police Department to cover dates of absence for the SRO. This year, the SRO (by the end of April) will have missed 27 days without planned coverage on our campus. Specifically, we would like a provision for this in the new MOU that requires Whitewater PD to cover absences (this aligns with the plan to bill WUSD a daily rate rather than cover the annual salary.)

2) Whitewater PD has failed to follow the WUSD Board policy regarding contacting parents in non-exigent circumstances in three circumstances. In the most recent situation, we may be involved with a parent's attorney due to the alleged violation of their parental rights on school grounds related to a child with a disability. This is unacceptable to violate parent rights, student rights, and Board Policy.

3) Whitewater PD has implemented a new policy, which we have not agreed to (without discussion or joint party approval) that WUSD staff need to contact "dispatch" for all needs related to the SRO or other WPD follow-up. (As recently as today, 4/9/25, the SRO requested staff "call dispatch.") This has created a serious disruption for our entire District Leadership Team, who do not support contacting dispatch for non-emergencies. For example, yesterday the SRO was asked to follow up on a truancy situation. Our staff were told, "call dispatch from here forward." (This is a concern for multiple reasons: it is an unnecessary step for our staff when they can simply speak to the SRO that WUSD is paying to contract on-site, it makes sensitive information about juveniles and their family addresses in our care, publicly available on scanners, and finally creates unnecessary panic about incidents that may be minor in nature.) This has never occurred in the history of administration in WUSD. (Our organizational history dates back 3 SROs and over 20 years with Dr. Lanora Heim.)

We are looking forward to resolving this in order to get an agreement in place.