

Special Policing Subcommittee Update

October 6th, 2022

Policing Subcommittee Members

Ellenor Barish	Aisha Banda
Andre Green	Glenda Soto
Sarah Phillips	Anuj Bhardwaj
Les Lartey	Johanne Thomas
Dayshawn Simmons	Jeff Curley

Policing Subcommittee Acknowledgement & Recommitment

- Recap the work in the spring
- Recognize the sensitivity and emotions involved in this process
- Acknowledge district and subcommittee changes
- Commitment to bring a recommendation to the School Committee by December 20th

Outreach Process

Students

Staff

Families

Community

In partnership, Somerville Public Schools Central Office and the Special Policing Subcommittee will conduct outreach to the school community. Below is who is responsible for conducting outreach to which stakeholders:

- **District Office:** Students & Staff
- **Special Policing Subcommittee:** Families & Community

The PTA Council is developing a survey where they will solicit feedback from families as well.

Proposed Timeline

Upcoming Milestones	
Oct 10 - 21	Conduct student focus groups
By Oct 17	Circulate staff survey
TBD	PTA Council survey
Oct 25	Review preliminary feedback, data
Nov 22	Proposal and deliberation

Recommendation Deadline	
Dec 20	Vote on proposal; provide the School Committee with a recommendation

Student Focus Groups



Focus Group Specifics

- In person during the school day (1-hour)
- 8-10 students per focus group
- Moderated by Dr. Gretchen Brion-Meisels & doctoral students

Deliverables

Students will have an opportunity to learn and offer input about the role of SROs and different school safety models

Preliminary data from the focus groups will be disaggregated and compiled to be shared with the Policing Subcommittee on Oct 25

Potential School Safety Models



Option #1

Reinstate a building-based School Resource Officer at SHS



Option #2

No building-based SRO; any SPD officer on patrol responds



Option #3

No SRO but partner with Somerville Police to have a trained Community Police Officer on stand by as needed

NOTE: We would use one of these models only if an incident (i.e., violent fights, use of a weapon, school bomb threat, etc) were to occur where the assistance of SPD is needed. If the incident is not related to physical safety, school admin will partner with the Student Services Support Team, including Mental Health counselors, and Community Engagement Specialists.

Outstanding Decision Points For Future Meetings

- What additional information does the Subcommittee need to reach a recommendation?
- As it relates to the potential school safety models, which is the Policing Subcommittee's preference?
- How does the Subcommittee feel about the STEPS program? What additional information does the group need to make a recommendation about it?
- Does the Special Policing Subcommittee feel it needs to host a community forum? If so, when?

Thank You!

Q&A