

**FINNEYTOWN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Secondary Campus Media Center**  
**8916 Fontainebleau Terrace**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45231**  
**June 22, 2022**  
**5:30pm**

The Finneytown Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, in the Secondary Campus Media Center, 8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Mr. Gast, Ms. Lee and Mr. Rea were present. The President called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

**85-22** Mr. Rea moved, seconded by Ms. Lee, that the Board dispense with the opening ceremony and approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2022. The President declared the motion passed.

**Discussion – Springfield Township School Resource Officer Backup Response**

**Dr. Laurie Banks, Superintendent** – introduced Rick Bly, Springfield Township Chief of Police, and his team of officers to discuss the role of the School Resource Officer and Police Department backup response.

**School Resource Officer Presentation**

Rick Bly, Chief of Police, Springfield Township  
Officer Nick Peterson  
Officer Emily Smith  
Officer Matt Wilcher

**Introduction**

- Rick Bly, Chief of Police, expressed his appreciation to the Finneytown Board of Education and school district administration for its longstanding (25+ years) partnership in the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program
- The SRO Program is viewed by the township and department as an extremely important and valuable community outreach. Benefits include: enhanced public safety related communication and information sharing, faster response to critical incidents, an effective public relations and community relationship building tool, and a useful recruiting tool in combination with the Cadet Program.
- The SRO program specialized training and skills also make it a great building block for career development within the department

**Critical Incident and Unruly Behavior Response**

- There are 42 police jurisdictions in Hamilton County. They work together very closely, forming special functional unit teams (leadership, SWAT, etc.), sharing personnel and resources, and responding to public safety threats.
- Springfield Township officers carry both a township radio and a county-wide radio, giving them the opportunity to receive help from police units outside the township in critical incidents.

- Springfield Township's police response is dictated by its standard operating procedures on every call.
- The SRO or officer on the scene also has a great deal of discretion in assessing and determining the backup response.
- Dispatch will send the number of police cars requested by the SRO. If a call is made without specifying the number of additional police cruisers needed, standard operating procedures dictate all available cars will report to the scene. Calls made on the county radio will result in additional cars on scene.
- As soon as the threat is diffused, cruisers will be withdrawn from the scene as expeditiously as possible.

#### Use of Force Continuum

- The goal of law enforcement school response is to diffuse the threat quickly and get out quickly. The township police start at the lowest level on the Use of Force Continuum, and work down the list as needed to keep unruly behavior or threat from escalating higher and ensure public safety
- The Use of Force Continuum includes:
  - 1) Officer Presence
  - 2) Arrest and Handcuffing
  - 3) Taser use to achieve arrest and handcuffing, if necessary

#### Police Backup Response Doesn't Always Seem to Match the Threat

- How to best respond to critical incidents and unruly behavior that jeopardize the public safety remains a challenge to achieve the perfect balance
- Over response, "too many patrol cars at the school", has been viewed negatively by the community and the administration; the response doesn't always seem to match the public safety threat in the eyes of the public.
- While some may see increased officer presence as escalation, law enforcement experts view it as a de-escalation measure. It is understood to be the best early deterrent and a better option than Use of Force Continuum options further down the list
- With responsibility for the safety of 700+ students and 100+ staff as the number one concern, it is necessary that *tactics* (uncompromised public safety at a public high school) take priority over *optics* (an occasional seemingly disproportionate officer response).
- The township won't wait for an "uncertain" public safety threat to get out of control, if it has time to increase officer presence, and prevent it ahead of time.

#### Juvenile Court Diversionary Program

- This program offers first time juvenile offenders a way to keep an arrest for a non-violent crime off their record.
- This extremely successful program involves the juvenile court, SRO, parents, staff, social workers, a court magistrate and others.
- If the juvenile offender cooperates with the magistrate's resolution, the offender will not be officially charged. The magistrate creates accountability through communication, debriefing, community service hours, and the writing of an apology letter.

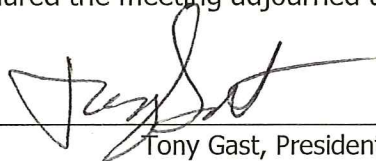
Active Shooter Situation (FYI)

- Active shooter engagement in Hamilton County changed after the Columbine School Shooting
  - o Quad Engagement – like most other jurisdictions, prior to Columbine, Hamilton County trained its officers to wait before entering an active shooter environment until a minimum of four police officers are on the scene. This is no longer standard protocol.
  - o Solo Engagement – Since Columbine, Hamilton County trains police officers in solo engagement techniques in active shooter situations, rather than letting precious time go by waiting for four officers to arrive on scene.


School District Post-Police Backup Additional Presence Communication

- Debrief between Springfield Township Police and the district administration team will be utilized as necessary following any SRO call for police presence back-up.
- The Board and administration need to determine communication protocol following an additional police presence response situation (i.e. SRO call for backup) on its campuses.
- Communication will seek to balance information transparency versus student privacy concerns.
- Need to decide what information needs to be communicated to Board of Education members
- Need to decide what information needs to be communicated to staff, parents and guardians
- Possible communication points to be decided upon for future communication:
  - o Date and time SRO called for back up
  - o Did the SRO specify a particularly number of police backup units
  - o How many police units were ultimately summoned to the school
  - o General description of the threat
  - o Number of students involved
  - o How did Springfield Township diffuse the situation
  - o How long did it take to diffuse the situation
  - o Number of Injuries
  - o Number of Arrests

**86-22** There being no further business, Ms. Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Gast, that the meeting be adjourned. The president declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

  
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Tony Gast, President

ATTEST:

  
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David Oliverio, Treasurer

