



MEMORANDUM

April 12, 2022
Regular Board Meeting

TO	Board of Trustees
FROM	Shauna Boyce, Superintendent
ORIGINATOR	Mark Francis, Deputy Superintendent
RESOURCE	Constable Gord Marshall, RCMP, School Resource Officer Carolyn Jensen, Principal, Memorial Composite High School Cheryl Otto, Principal, Spruce Grove Composite High School
GOVERNANCE POLICY	Board Policy 2: Role of the Board Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE	BP 2: Articles 10-13 Board Annual Work Plan
SUBJECT	SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM SUMMARY

PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Trustees is responsible for supporting school programs, needs and desires to the community as well as representing the community's needs, hopes and desires. The Board is also responsible to adhere to the Board Annual Work Plan. The attached report is in support of these responsibilities.

REPORT SUMMARY

In 2011, Parkland School Division, the Town of Stony Plain, the City of Spruce Grove and the RCMP entered into a partnership to provide funding for a uniformed RCMP Officer to act as a School Resource Officer (SRO) at both Parkland School Division high schools. Previous to this fiscal year, Parkland County contributed to this program but withdrew their funding support effective August 1, 2019.

Parkland School Division has continued to support the SRO Program along with the City of Spruce Grove and the Town of Stony Plain.

The following report highlights the many facets to the SRO Program, the support provided through its continuity and demonstrates the growing accomplishments of the SRO Program in Parkland School Division.

Administration would be pleased to respond to any questions.

MF:kz



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM SUMMARY

APRIL 2022

Presented to the Board of Trustees, April 12, 2022

Deputy Superintendent Mark Francis

Resource: Constable Gord Marshall, RCMP, Parkland Detachment

Principal Carolyn Jensen, Memorial Composite High School

Principal Cheryl Otto, Spruce Grove Composite High School

Our Students Possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

BACKGROUND

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is in its tenth year in the Parkland area. Constable Gord Marshall is the current SRO and is in his fifth year.

Initially funding for the SRO Program was shared at the local government level. Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, however, the SRO program is funded at a provincial level. School Administration and staff, PSD Executive and the SRO all believe the program is an incredible asset and has many benefits to PSD students and staff. This [2019 PSD video](#) describes the program further.

REPORT

Having an SRO in our high schools assists us with building community. The SRO provides the school with the opportunity for students to access education and counseling regarding the law and how the law impacts them, specifically. The SRO serves as a positive, guiding force who assists students in making positive choices, and aids them in overcoming the error of their ways when the choices they make are not positive. Respectful, friendly interaction with students by the SRO creates meaningful relationships which support our schools as safe and caring. This was illustrated by Constable Gord in his [Farewell Video to the Class of 2020](#) which he sent when students were doing at home learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the SRO:

- Is available to all students, fostering relationships with youth across the region;
- Presents at events such as Grade 10 Open Houses, School Council meetings, and community information sessions;
- Conducts formal classroom presentations in courses like CALM, Psychology and Social Studies. Topics include bullying, drug use, and the law as it relates to youth;
- Encourages students to attend spring and summer RCMP Youth Camps;
- Meets individually with students both formally (scheduled meetings) and informally providing basic information through to ongoing mentorship. Student issues that have been addressed by the SRO include:
 - Conflict resolution;
 - Legal perspective on issues/matters students are dealing with;

- Bullying issues;
 - Fights and potential fights;
 - Theft;
 - Drug and alcohol issues;
 - Traffic and driving;
 - Diffusing behavioral issues;
 - Relationship issues - home, peer, boyfriend/girlfriend; and
 - Internet safety and cell phone use.
- Serves as a liaison between by-law and the school community;
 - Participates in Violence Threat Risk Assessments (VTRAs) at both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 levels for PSD high school students, and the Stage 2 level for all PSD students;
 - Advises school and division leadership on matters regarding student safety, school lockdowns;
 - Provides and ongoing police presence at the high schools helping diffuse any potential issues;
 - Supports K-9 schools with pertinent student and school safety concerns;
 - Plays an integral role in Emergency response drills and procedures;
 - Assists other RCMP members with files pertaining to high school students.

Reporting/Measures of Success

- Regular meetings with administration to discuss areas of focus/concern;
- Statistics on number of formal presentations;
- Quarterly reports by SRO to school administration and RCMP liaison; and
- Feedback on Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Survey (Safe and Caring Schools)

Staff Kudos

- *Gord makes great connections with students. He helps those who are thinking of police work as a career. For all students, he does not present as the 'scary' authority; he makes the RCMP and police relatable to kids. He brings a personable face to that kind of authority. Gord connects on a personal level allowing students to feel safe enough to ask questions. He is invaluable to our school community.*
- *Gord is a wealth of information; he can make connections and present in so many different classes--CALM, Art, Math, Psychology, Forensics, Science, Sports Medicine and Performance, etc.*
- *Only one thing about Gord really matters---his ability to build relationships with students and staff...HUGE!*
- *Gord is the perfect liaison between youth and police during these difficult, anti-policing times.*

Student Kudos

- *I've had some bad experiences with other police officers which made me wary of them and very afraid to tell them when I have an issue. Gord is so good at talking to people, and engaging students particularly, that it's helped me get over my wariness and fear of interacting with and talking to police officers.*
- *I want to be a cop; he's been a great person to talk to about this.*
- *We are all fairly new drivers; he's a great person to ask questions about traffic law.*
- *In CALM, he talked about healthy relationships...good stuff to know.*
- *Gord presented in my CALM class and I shared that I was having a hard time at home and stuff. He pulled me aside outside of class and took me to his office. He was the first person I felt comfortable talking about it with. He checks in on me regularly now.*
- *Gord's presentations in classes aren't super serious. He gets to the point and makes them super enjoyable.*
- *In conversations with Gord, he makes you feel like you can talk to him; he is always understanding. He asks lots of questions and is genuinely interested in us as people.*
- *Const. Gord provides great moral support.*
- *Gord offers real life advice. He's a third party support system.*
- *Gord is there whenever anybody needs him. He is a great person to go to whenever you need resources. He's talked to me about university.*
- *Const. Marshall is really approachable. He goes out of his way to make sure students feel safe and not judged.*
- *Gord is really real; he's a G!*