



Arlington Public Schools and School Resource Officers Work Group Charge

Background

The Arlington Public Schools and School Resource Officers Work Group is being created by the School Board and Superintendent to primarily address the community concerns expressed to the School Board and Superintendent regarding the relationship and the operations that Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) have with Arlington Public Schools (APS). The work of the Work Group will also serve to meet the requirement to review the memorandum of understanding with our local law enforcement and ensure opportunity for community input during the review per VA Code § 22.1-280.2:3.

Work Group Organization

The Work Group will be convened by the Superintendent's Chief of Staff, Brian Stockton, and will be facilitated by a professional facilitator. The Work Group will meet at least monthly and form sub-groups as needed. The Work Group's first introductory meeting will be held in December 2020.

The Work Group will consist of up to 48 members who represent Arlington Public Schools student demographics and include members of advisory groups, students, parents, police and staff. This will help ensure a diverse and inclusive working group. Arlington community members and Arlington Public Schools staff and students may apply to serve on the Work Group through the Engage website between October 9 and November 9, 2020. The Work Group will review the following charge and produce a report with recommendations to the Superintendent and School Board by June 2021.

Work Group Charge

Arlington Public Schools Mission is, "to ensure all students learn and thrive in safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments." The purpose of the Arlington Public Schools (APS) School Resource Officer (SRO) Work Group is to evaluate and examine APS' partnership with Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) and specifically to review our longstanding practice of SROs in schools. This examination may result in reinventing, limiting, or terminating the SRO and school partnership in Arlington in support of APS' Mission, following the review and assessment of current practices, research, data, and community input.

The Work Group will:

- Conduct a scan and review the history of School Resource Officers involvement in Arlington Public Schools.
- Obtain and review local, state and national data and research on the role, operations, benefits and consequences of police in public schools.
- Receive community input on Arlington County Police Department and School Resource Officers in Arlington Public Schools, current operations, past operations, and possible future operations.
- Receive and consider Arlington County Police Department input regarding its operation in Arlington Public Schools currently and possible future operations.
- Provide a report with recommendations to the Superintendent and School Board that includes background, issues, options, considerations and specific recommendations regarding the operations of Arlington County Police Department and School Resource Officers in Arlington Public Schools, and that addresses ACPD's working relationship with Arlington Public Schools. The report should also include a financial analysis of the cost of any recommendations provided. Community feedback and Work Group members input on those recommendations should be included, noting considerations and dissenting opinions, and be presented to the Superintendent and School Board. The School Board and the Superintendent will determine next steps on those recommendations by the fall of 2021.