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Sean McGlynn
City Manager
City of Santa Rosa

Dear Mr. McGlynn,

We write in the spirit of civic partnership and with the deepest respect for the shared responsibility we hold to raise our community's children. It is in that same spirit that we have engaged in a community conversation about the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. Over the last four months, an Ad Hoc Committee composed of district employees, parents, community members, and School Resource Officers came together for difficult, yet necessary conversations. We believe our work has just begun, and we write to invite the Santa Rosa City and the Santa Rosa Police Department to engage in a deeper conversation with us to heal, resolve, and continue our shared work for community.

Over multiple board meetings, the Committee presented its overall findings including the following:

- The SRO Program should not continue in its current form;
- A majority of committee members believe it could come back with modifications;
- 8% of students (particularly students of color) who responded to a survey regarding feelings about the SRO program, indicated negative or fearful reactions to law enforcement on campus.

During our Board meetings, the Trustees were in agreement that a partnership with SRCity and SRPD would be desirable to create a model for safety for students/youth. Some Board members posed questions more appropriate for leadership of the Department and its policy makers. We look forward to raising those questions to your leadership. Additionally, some of the SROs responses to our Board members' questions demonstrated a need for a longer and deeper conversation between our institutions about our values and the ways in which we have committed to equity, to centering the needs of those constituents whom we have long marginalized and harmed, and to deep and honest self reflection about our actions and subsequent responsibilities for restoration. In light of this study and the Board of Education's subsequent discussion, we invite you to share, to listen, and to learn with us as we investigate the best ways to achieve equity in our policy design and decision making about the role of police officers in schools, possibilities for reform and transformation, and best practices in community policing to deepen our partnership to keeping our campuses, personnel, and students safe.

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We ask that SRCity and SRPD:

- Come together for a moderated conversation with our Equity Design consultants (Acosta Educational Partnership) who have supported our development of Ethnic Studies curriculum and built our teaching capacity to strengthen the learning environments for children of color.
- Partner with school administration to craft a new way to support safety on campuses.
- Partner with Santa Rosa City Schools to seek grants and funding to further seek best practices where law enforcement and schools truly work together to transform school safety.

We look forward to working with you on behalf of the students of Santa Rosa City Schools.

Sincerely,

Laurie Fong
Board of Education
Santa Rosa City School District