



Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting: Regular Meeting of Council
Meeting Date: February 27, 2024
Originated By: Luis Gandolfi, Director of Protective Services
Title: School Resource Officer Program Review

PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND

Approximately one year ago, the School Resource Officer (SRO) program underwent significant changes when, in January 2023, the program was reduced from two full-time employees to one. Before that, and dating back to 2009, the M.D. had fully funded the two positions for approximately 15 years. Following the staff reduction in 2023, modifications were made to the programming to adjust the remaining employees' workload. Since then, despite previous discussions with potential funding partners including the school divisions and municipalities, the SRO program has continued to be funded exclusively by the M.D.

On January 23, 2024, the M.D. received a resignation letter from the remaining SRO indicating their last day of employment. Due to the amount of time needed to advertise for, hire, security clear, and train a full-time employee, it would be impossible to offer our schools a meaningful program for the remainder of the 2023/24 school year. Given the funding challenges in years past with this program, Administration is seeking Council's direction on the future of the SRO program, and specifically whether this vacant SRO position should be staffed long-term if no funding partnerships are realized moving forward.

DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS, DISADVANTAGES & OPTIONS

In 2023, the SRO program delivered 987 presentations to more than 15,600 students across 23 area schools and municipalities. This was accomplished exclusively through M.D. funding, and with the M.D. only accounting for approximately 33% of the students in question.

Total Students: 7061
Cold Lake Students: 3098
Bonnyville Students: 1607
M.D. Students: 2356 (33% of total)

This data indicates that the M.D. is funding the SRO program exclusively while benefitting only a marginal number of M.D. residents.

REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 1: Enhancing safety in the community.

REFERENCE TO PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LEGISLATION

N/A

COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING

If the remaining SRO position were not filled, the M.D. would realize a savings of approximately \$125,000 in salary and benefits for the remainder of the 2024 calendar year. A permanent discontinuation of the program would see savings of approximately \$175,000 per year.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Letters will be sent out to School Divisions when the outcome is known.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED ACTION

THAT Council delays filling the vacant School Resource Officer position until another funding partner can be found to help make financial contributions towards the program.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. THAT Council delays filling the vacant School Resource Officer position until another funding partner can be found to help make financial contributions towards the program.
2. THAT Council discontinues the School Resource Officer Program effective immediately.
3. THAT Council directs Administration to bring back additional information regarding the vacant School Resource Officer position to a future meeting of Council, as discussed.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	School Resource Officer Program Review .docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 16, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Matt Janz

Stephanie Severin