**School Justice PSD**

**TALKING POINTS**

**November 9, 2020**

**School Justice PSD believes that law enforcement (SROs) should be removed from schools because:**

1) Students are in need of vital services for students, such as providing counselors and mental health workers.

2) Security can be provided by non-law enforcement entities at less expense with better outcomes.

3) Police presence in schools is harmful to our students and disproportionately impacts minoritized and disabled populations.

**SROs must be eliminated and those funds must be redirected for these reasons:**

* While approximately 25% of the students in Poudre School District are students of color,

nearly 50% of the students referred to law enforcement or disciplined in PSD are minoritized students.

* While approximately 8% of children in PSD have an IEP (special education plan) they compose approximately 25% of children disciplined and 18% of law enforcement referrals.
* PSD spends nearly $1 million a year on police in schools, and that money is matched by Timnath, Larimer County, and Fort Collins. Therefore, it costs Fort Collins taxpayers nearly $2 million dollars a year to employ SROs.
* The district and the City paid for 7 SROs during COVID closures, costing the district hundreds of thousands of dollars.
  + Tasks carried out by SROs during COVID closures were either superfluous or could have been handled by other professionals.
* PSD does not have enough money for counselors and does not maintain the recommended student to counselor ratio.
* Law enforcement in schools does not increase school safety or prevent school shootings.
* An  increase in mental health services for students does increase school safety.
* Money spent on SROs should be used instead for increasing the number of counselors, mental health services, and other necessary resources for students.
* SROs in schools lead to racial profiling of students.
* SROs in schools increase fear and mistrust among students of color.
* SROs result in violations of procedural and civil rights of students.
* SROs lead to the criminalization of students.
* SROs lead to more suspensions, expulsions, and legal actions against minoritized students.
* SROs are not properly or adequately trained.
* A law enforcement referral can cause students to lose their DACA, resulting in possible deportation of undocumented students.
* When police are in schools, administrators use law enforcement for discipline.
* Administrators in police free schools use more effective disciplinary practices, such as restorative justice.

**There are many alternatives to deploying SROs in schools that do not cause harm to students of color and instead result in healthier school communities.**

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