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SEAFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION • 1600 WASHINGTON AVENUE • SEAFORD • NEW YORK • 11783 • (516) 592-4012

**By Mail and Fax (516-571-4000)**

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Blakeman  
Office of the Nassau County Executive  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, NY 11501

Dear Mr. Blakeman:

In the wake of school-related violence across the nation, we respectfully request that you further prioritize the safety of Nassau County's students, faculty, and staff by expanding Nassau County Police Department's School Resource Program to include school resource officers ("SRO") which have been successfully utilized in other parts of New York State and around the country.

As you know, the NCPD School Resource Program has proven to be a successful and vital partnership between law enforcement and districts across this County. Through this Program, the Seaford School District has a direct line to designated Homeland Security and POP Officers who assist with a variety of security-related measures, including, performing random patrol visits, hosting situational awareness training, intervening with at-need students, analyzing the District's current safety protocols, advising on additional security enhancements, and providing intel on potential threats to our schools. Our relationships with these Officers, and with NCPD as a whole, has been invaluable in our continued efforts to keep our schools safe and secure. Our collaboration with the NCPD, together with our state-of-the-art security measures, such as the RAVE app, high impact security film on all glass fronts, enhanced doors and locks, landlines in every classroom, electronic monitoring, and licensed security guard employees, provides a formidable level of security.

That said, we cannot ignore the painful reality that schools are no longer exempt from violence as they once were a mere generation ago. Nor can we ignore the simple and irrefutable fact that every second matters in an active shooter situation. Although all school administrators and many teachers have the RAVE app on their mobile phones which, when activated, immediately deploys members of the NCPD and Homeland Security, there is no timely replacement for having an NCPD police officer on-site at our schools when an active shooter or other threat is present. The creation of an NCPD SRO program would provide the utmost level of security and school districts may be able to subsidize the related costs should they choose to

take advantage of it. An increased police presence would not only deter school-related violence, but it would continue to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and students.

An SRO program would especially benefit school districts, like Seaford's, who employ their own unionized security guards (as opposed to outsourcing this work) and thus are contractually prohibited from hiring an outside armed security company. Moreover, districts like ours are unable to obtain the requisite insurance to arm their own security guard employees and therefore are reliant on local police departments to provide this service. Regardless of the legal and logistical impossibilities we face, there is no private company that can rival the hiring, training, and experience of NCPD officers in these critical situations.

We are sure you will agree, our children are the most precious and innocent among us. They, along with our faculty and staff, deserve the same level of security that is afforded to all other perceived worthy persons and places of interest in our society. We therefore ask that you proactively lead us, and Nassau County, in protecting our children and schools by implementing an SRO program and, in the interim, increasing police presence at and around our buildings.

Sincerely,

Seaford Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools

*Andrea Parisi*

Andrea Parisi, President

*Dr. Adele V. Pecora*

Dr. Adele V. Pecora, Superintendent of Schools

*Stacie Stark*

Stacie Stark, Vice President

*Lisa Herbert*

Lisa Herbert, Trustee

*Natalie Pedisich*

Natalie Pedisich, Trustee

*Heather Umhafer*

Heather Umhafer, Trustee

cc: Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick J. Ryder  
Nassau County Legislator Michael J. Giangregorio  
Town Supervisor Don Clavin  
Town Councilman Christopher Carini  
Assemblyman David G. McDonough  
State Senator Steven D. Rhoads