

Board Meeting 2/10/2022

This survey will be turned off at 3:00pm 2/10/2022, no late entries will be accepted.

Name:

.....

Address/Affiliation:

ssfhs student
.....

Is this for Open Session or Closed Session?

Open Session

Closed Session

What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

SLO MOU
.....

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

- When agenda item comes up
- During the public comment section

Comments:

For almost a year and a half, the school board has avoided making any real changes to address the dangers of the SLO program. Listen to the students when we say police officers on campus are harmful. Stop ignoring students when they talk about their own experiences with SLOs and make changes to actually better their situation.

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Name:

DeVante Jewett

Address/Affiliation:

CHANGE SSF

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MOU Vote

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

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Comments:

Dear Elected Officials,

My name is DeVante and I am a Community member of South San Francisco. I am writing to you to encourage the removal of police presence on any SSFUSD campus.

I urge the Board to direct all school sites to discontinue all relations with the SSFPD. The SSFPD uses a school liaison officer model, and we want an end to police in schools.

Peer-reviewed literature shows that police in schools decrease the feeling of safety for students of color, have a negative impact on girls of color alongside students who identify as Queer, students with disabilities, and result in higher rates of exclusionary discipline, particularly arrests, of young people of color - especially for arbitrary matters labeled "disorderly conduct". Thus, SSFUSD should remove police from our schools.

By removing police from our schools, our City can reinvest the modest savings into the lives of our students and their loved ones. Most immediately, our City can invest in resources to support students and families during the pandemic. Longer-term prospects exist as well.

SSF PD's school liaison officers spend the most time at Martin, Parkway, and South City, schools with large populations of working-class students of color (Latinx & Black specifically). This is a proximate indicator of which schools require creative strategies to support our youth.

In those schools, we can, for instance, implement authentic restorative justice practices, ethnic studies curriculum, conflict resolution programs, increase counselors, and opportunities for our young people to collectively change their surroundings through gardens, murals, etc.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to not only do the right thing but place yourselves on the correct side of history as you help South City become a leading example of what could be done differently while best serving our children and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
DeVante

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Name:

Aristel de la Cruz

Address/Affiliation:

Ssfhs

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MOU

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Comments:

I am writing to give comment regarding the latest draft of the MOU between ssfusd and the ssfspd. I have commented on this issue at various meetings prior and have witnessed what I believe to be a very concerning process. A process that has not been truly inclusive of student and community input. There has been a small survey that was conducted at ssfhs that showed overwhelming pushback on the slo program. Despite this small survey of around 120 students or so, it was far more expansive and student inclusive than the thought exchange survey that was conducted earlier. Some of the results have been posted on the change ssf Instagram page. It, in fact, contradicts much the current draft of the MOU despite the board and cabinet continually saying that they are listening to the students. There have been board members expressing and encouraging a reading of an MOU that seems careless in that it allows ssfspd to not be held accountable in the event of misconduct and to increase the chances of students being incarcerated and profiled. Data and resources have been sent and emailed directly to the board members in past months and it seems like when these drafts are brought up for discussion not all of the members have done the work of reading the research. It is evident in how many of the board members continue to push misconceptions about police making schools safer that have been repeatedly debunked by academic consensus. It's has been over a year since this issue was raised. No one on the board had come to the schools to ask students for their opinion. No one has requested a survey of all the students. How come the chief was allowed to write the Mou and not the students? How much of this Mou is backed by decades of peer reviewed research on police presence in schools? I ask that the current Mou draft be rejected and that the board conduct a a survey of student opinion, especially at the high school level. I invite the board to come speak with various ssfhs students for a few lunches to hear their thoughts on police presence in schools. To proceed and approve this draft without genuinely knowing students' experiences and opinions is not equity nor is it data driven. Reject the draft.

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Name:

Russell

Address/Affiliation:

SSFUSD Alum

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MOU with Police

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Comments:

From ACLU NorCal's Letter in support of ending the SLO Program: "During the 2017-2018 school year, Black students were referred to law enforcement at a rate over 12 times their rate of enrollment in the District, and students with disabilities were referred to law enforcement at a rate one-and-a-half times their rate of enrollment.¹ The latter finding indicates a likely overreliance by school and District staff on police officers to handle student behavior that may arise from a disability. Black students with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to law enforcement contact, as they comprise 2.6% of the District's population of students with disabilities but 28.6% of students with disabilities who were referred to law enforcement, reflecting a disproportionality factor of over 10 times their population in the District. Similarly shocking disproportionalities exist at the school level. At South San Francisco High School, where SLOs log the greatest number of hours,² Black students without disabilities were referred to law enforcement at a rate nearly fourteen times their enrollment in the school.... As a policy matter, these discriminatory practices have real world, damaging impacts on students. Many students feel that school police practices are fundamentally unfair, so police presence on campus damages their trust and engagement with other school adults.⁶ Unjust targeting of students by police leads to a damaging school climate, significant student mental health needs arising from trauma from police contact, and decreased graduation rates for students of color and students with disabilities."

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Russel

Address/Affiliation:

SSFUSD Alum

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MOU with Police

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Comments:

From Fly's Letter in support of ending the SLO Program:

"We write on behalf of Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY), and the young people served by our San Mateo County team. FLY is an award-winning Bay Area nonprofit that has worked to prevent juvenile crime and incarceration for twenty years. Each year we serve about 2,000 youth who are involved in the justice system or are at risk of involvement.... Many of their experiences with the juvenile justice system start in school, often through violent or demeaning encounters with School Liaison Officers or School Resource Officers.

While more privileged community members may see the presence of police officers as promoting school safety, many youth in our programs experience school police as an active threat. Indeed, these are direct quotes from young people in our community:

'I saw cops nonstop. I felt singled out and harassed. Whenever I got in trouble for little stuff, I'd be sent to the cop in the office. But I never saw white kids being sent to him, so I asked about it. They said it was because the cop was for kids who "needed more resources." They acted like it was normal, but I always felt harassed.'

'At the end of the day, you can know all of your rights and it doesn't matter. An officer can get upset and doesn't want to be corrected ... They have that gun, that badge, that power over you. They don't care if they're wrong. You're supposed to know your place with them.'

...These local experiences are borne out by regional and national data. A survey by the US Department of Education in 2012, showed that Black, Latino, and students with special needs were all disproportionately criminalized for their behavior. Further, having police in schools creates a school-to-deportation pipeline for students who are undocumented. Surveys of California students demonstrate a large, reliable gap in students' perception of safety as they relate to school police along racial and ethnic lines. When you hear from community members that they think police make schools safer, consider who you are - and who you are not - hearing from."

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Name:

N.O.
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Address/Affiliation:

Alumna of SSFUSD schools
.....

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Comments:

As an SSFUSD alumna, I support the removal of the SLO program. Although an SLO program wasn't in place at the schools I attended many years ago, it's safe to say it wasn't missed. School security, staff, and faculty always did their part in breaking up or deescalating the occasional conflict. Police are not security, staff, or faculty; they do not have the proper training to deescalate student conflicts, let alone provide proper guidance and education to students. The hundreds of thousands of dollars that fund SLO programs should be used to hire more guidance counselors, invest in better extracurricular and after-school programs for students, and cover the costs of deescalation and restorative justice trainings for current SSFUSD faculty and staff. Please prioritize students and their needs over police. We need to do everything we can to support, not hurt, our students during their formative years and build the foundation for a bright future. Please take my comments into consideration. Thank you.

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Name:

Brenda Gonzalez

Address/Affiliation:

SSFHS student

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MOU approval

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Comments:

The MOU approval was not stated as a further agenda item which makes it seem like the board is sneaking this agenda item to be approved without community input. This is terrible leadership governance, this is an issue that deals with the safety and well-being of our students. The fact that the board is pushing so hard to approve a program that has been proven to negatively affect black and brown kids in our district shows that the board does not care about our students, yet they have passed multiple resolutions for Black Lives Matter and more topics relating to this issue of policing students.

Additionally, the board has not properly consulted the schools on this issue. The focus groups were only a few students and the thoughtexchange survey was censored and not real data that did not reach those affected by the issue and the board knows that yet you are continuing to approve an MOU. There are a survey going around in South city high school that gathered data from more than 100 students and it was overwhelmingly against having the SLO program. Additionally, when talking to admin they did not even know all the information on this issue the Board is trying to pass and nor did they know that this would be approved so soon.

So students don't want SLO in our schools and the schools themselves are unaware of what is going on. The board is just relies on their own belief and don't even care to go to the schools and see what it is like to walk in our shoes and ask about the student perspective. The Board ignored letters for notable organizations such as ACLU and FLY. The Board ignored student presenter all the way back in early 2021. The Board ignored when many community members and students spoke out against having police on campuses.

Contiue the suspension of SLOs permanently and start investing in programs that will actualloy benefit our students and are designed specifically for students with trained professionals that know how to work with students.

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SSFHS Student

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Cops Off Campus

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Comments:

Time and time again, our community has requested that the Board listen to our demands regarding SLOs on school campuses, and time and time again, you have chosen to ignore us. We asked for a community survey, and you guys gave us your lazy ThoughtExchange that only collected responses from old white people in the city. Then we held presentations and sent letters and served you all the evidence you needed to make an informed decision on a platter, and you threw it in the trash. We even held a protest over the summer and taped posters to your office walls, and you pretended it never happened. Now we ask to be included in the writing of your MOU, and you assign three white men, one of whom is the chief of police, to do it instead. I am sick and tired of the constant disrespect this Board continues to show to the students it serves. You have absolutely no concern for your students, and it shows because you never bother to ask them about their experiences! Students have repeatedly taken time out of their busy schedules every month to show up to these meetings and comment that they want resources with the same funds you use to keep cops in our schools, and not once have you shown that you care about their voices. Have you even visited our schools and seen how much they need better services? Our wellness counseling room can only seat about 4 kids during group activities, while everyone else has to sit on the floor. We're in the middle of a pandemic, and yet there still isn't enough soap in the bathrooms. The condition you've left us in is honestly embarrassing and really shows how out-of-tune you all are as politicians. If you really cared about us, then you'd know that we've been begging for the removal of SLOs for nearly a year and a half. If you really cared, then you'd vote against this MOU and get cops off our campuses and give us the resources we need. All we're asking for is for you to #Believe in your #Diverse student body.

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