

Board Meeting 4/27/2023

This survey will be turned off at 3:00pm 4/27/2023, no late entries will be accepted.

Name:

Aristel de la Cruz

Address/Affiliation:

SSFHS

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.)

MOU between SSFUSD and SSFPD

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:

SSFUSD school board,

I am giving comment with regards to the MOU between SSFPD and SSFUSD. The current draft has questionable language that potentially allows police to engage in activities with as a means to build some kind of relationship. This means that this can potentially reinstate the GREAT program or implement a similar program. These are expensive programs paid by the city through taxes that could otherwise go to actual trained experts that know how to run youth activities and programs. I have heard board members express the need for these programs as means to improve community perception of the police. I find this disturbing and not in line with this district's frequent proclamations of being equity focused. Schools are not a place to engage in pro-police and pro-policing propaganda especially when you consider the existing data that show the negative impact police presence in schools and how that folds into the school-to-prison pipeline (a concept that has been frequently raised at numerous board meetings). There are hundreds more academic standards and socio-emotional skills that have actual value and of higher priority than dedicating time for students to play or talk with police. Teachers are already trained in talking about choices and socio emotional teaching. I would also like to add that there were no student or community voices included in the final edits and subsequent edits of the draft. Why didn't the board and leadership do school wide surveys with the students, especially high students? Why did the surveys that were implemented years ago lacking in student voices? Additionally, how are such surveys considered a strong sample size? Lastly, why did the focus groups that occurred around this issue limited to a select few students? Did any of these focus groups invite students whose family members have been incarcerated? Were these voices being deeply considered and included in the writing this MOU? The most successful schools in this nation have robust youth programs and support systems staffed by youth workers and NOT police. We need to work towards that. Send a message to city council in that these SLO funds needs to be reallocated to actual youth programming that can move us closer to equity.

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Name:

Pearl Gee

Address/Affiliation:

861 Gellert Blvd. Daly City, CA 94015

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El Camino High graduation seating

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:

We need more seating for parents and guests and not lawn seating with blankets

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Name:

Roula Stam

Address/Affiliation:

El Camino High School

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EL Camino HS graduation seating

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Comments:

very upset that our families get 2 seats (plus 4 that have to sit elsewhere) and have to separate from our other children/family. Also no guarantee if there will be enough seating even for the 2 seats on the field. Something needs to be done about this, it's unacceptable for us parents to have to worry about this on such a special day.

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Name:

anonymous

Address/Affiliation:

teacher

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public comment

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Comments:

Our school district has some beautiful library buildings at our elementary schools, and plans to build new libraries at sites that need them (thanks to measure T). As a teacher, I would like to request that these libraries be OPEN during school hours. Currently, they are only open for part of the day. I would like to see our school libraries open at lunch or even for a short time after school so students can ENJOY reading even more.

I also think our library workers need to be FULL employees. Did you know they aren't earning retirement benefits? Did you know they don't have full medical benefits? They interact with EVERY STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL - and they often don't have time to finish all their tasks because they are limited in their working hours.

Please give our librarians longer hours and full benefits. They deserve it.

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Name:

Joliza Gomes

Address/Affiliation:

SSFUSD Alumni

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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.)

SLOs on Campus

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:

It saddens me to think it's been 3 years since we first advocated to remove cops from district campuses, yet nothing has substantially changed. As a result, our demand also remains unchanged: end the SLO program, and invest the money used for it into student support.

Research has consistently shown that some of the biggest factors that lead to crime are poverty and environment. So why are we throwing our money at a "solution" that harasses, harms, and terrorizes our students, instead of solving their problems at the source? Is this what our district is committed to—harmful and lazy fixes to real issues?

Students don't need armed officers who silence them into submission. That's not solving their problems—that's just ignoring them with the threat of violence. Students need counselors who welcome them into their offices and create spaces of listening, support, and healing, providing them with healthy pathways to help solve their issues. An officer simply is not trained to do that. You can't wave a gun at a problem and expect it to go away, so why do we keep doing exactly that to our children?

When we have officers on campus, we automatically create a climate of violence and oppression. That's not okay. We need a campus culture that encourages students to get the support they need. We need more counselors, just as much as we need kids to know that it's okay for them to get counseling. But how can we do that when we host police officers, whose entire job is to solve problems through force instead of compassion?

Additionally, I highly advise the board to stall the approval of the MOU and reconsider its language. Some of it is vague and provides leeway for officers to teach programs such as G.R.E.A.T. on campus. And once again, the point must be reiterated: the biggest factors that lead to crime are poverty and environment. It doesn't make sense for an officer to walk onto campus and preach that joining a gang is a personal choice that can be resisted, when it never feels that way. Let's stop treating problems like they're individual choices that deserve force and violence in response, and let's instead recognize that our students need genuine foundational support and help lead them onto the right path.

End the SLO program. Provide students the support they need.

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Name:

DeVante Jewett

Address/Affiliation:

CHANGE SSF

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MOU renewal

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Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to demand the end of the SLO program, reallocate the funds to invest in mental health counselors, and limit police presence on campus.

Research shows police presence in schools do not reduce violence, prevent crime, or address the problems youth are going through. Police can't solve those issues or make students feel safe (more specifically for students of color). We are approaching the month of May, which is mental health awareness month. Police can't solve problems regarding mental health, which at times can lead to actions of harm to self & others. Mental health counselors can address these issues and work towards developing interventions around healing, safety, and coping with stressors. The board would be doing a disservice to the youth and the community by supporting the SLO program. The board must urge the city counsel to reallocate funds to invest in the resources to address root causes of social/economic hardships youth could be going through.

Police presence will not solve that problem, it only perpetuates the school to prison pipeline system. I urge the board to reconsider our demands from CHANGE SSF and push the city counsel to do what needs to be done to support our youth in South San Francisco.

"We want to build a society in which social problems are solved not by police and prison guards but by medical & mental health specialist, social workers, domestic violence experts, educators, and community-based organizers and problem solvers charged with addressing crises in the communities where they live."
- Mumia Abu-Jamal

Thank you,
DeVante

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Changes in the SSFUSD-SSFPD MOU

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Comments:

I've said this in several comments and I'll say it again, no matter where your individual stance or relationship to the police is, they are a figure of oppression. And since you represent a school district of majority POC students, you must best represent our views and our demands that police do not belong on campus.

Because no matter how many restrictions and rules and protection you can come up with, they will always be that figure of oppression. End the SLO program!

I mean just remember all the things that have led to this moment:

- suspending the SLO program because there was no MOU/no protection of students
- a presentation by ELCO and SSFHS students on harmful effects of police on campus

(where they talked about how schools are being disproportionately policed which hasn't changed in your recent evaluation)

- a city-wide protest against cops on campus
- letters for organizations like ACLU
- many public comments from community members

and of course and undeniable acts of police violence and over-policing of our communities that have made students and our community feel unsafe around SSFPD.

They have a budget that is disproportional to the spending on more effective programs that ensure student's safety and community safety. Students are coming to you about the bathrooms being constantly locked because these kids use them as a space to smoke weed. Weed is a big part of California culture and kids are gonna get exposed to it but we also know that it can have harmful effects on the developing mind. So how can we find a way to not police our youth but invest that money that used to support ineffective programs like DARE into safe and supportive programs to address the needs of our students. Also, we need to invest more in mental health services and expand our guidance counselor services because they are understaffed and underfunded. We should have more than ONE college and career counselor. Our schools are not piggy banks for police!

Also, I think it's unfair that you took away the ability to public comment on zoom. It does no one any benefit to be inaccessible, especially a governing body like this one.

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Name:

Russell Lee

Address/Affiliation:

SSFUSD Alum

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SSFPD MOU

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Comments:

Hi, I am an SSFUSD alum and I want to call on the board to end the SLO program as you consider modifications to the MOU with SSFPD. The SLO program only increases the policing of our youth and does nothing to address the psychological and sociological issues that students face growing up.

Two popular programs, the "Every 15 minutes" and "GREAT" programs, attribute the blame of drunk driving and drug usage to individual decisions by students rather than the symptoms of youth who are experiencing all the issues that adults face - depression, anxiety, peer pressure, feelings of inadequacy and detachment - but magnified by 100 times as their brains are still developing. As a student, I remember health class having more of an impact on me choosing to stay away from chronic drug usage than any other program because it helped me understand why we choose to use drugs rather than trying to scare me into not using them like the images of our classmates in handcuffs the 15 minutes program uses.

Instead of accepting the SLO program as a quote on quote "gift" from our city government, I call on the board to reject the notion that our students' issues need to be policed for there to be a safe school environment. I also encourage the board to adopt a resolution demanding the city council reallocate the "police training" funds (as it is allocated in the budget) used for the SLO program towards a non-profit partnership which can actually help our youth address their issues. The district should be proactive in helping students without always resorting to punitive and carceral policies which overly target our student body, predominantly students of color.

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