

Resolution Regarding Community Engagement Officers in BSD

WHEREAS, the BEA Representative Council adopted an Equity Resolution on November 15, 2018 that outlines our commitment to educators and students of color, and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue Education Association believes in respect for students of color as shown through its previous adoption of a Resolution to Support the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, as well as the goals of the national Black Lives Matter at School movement, specifically, to "Prioritize placement of counselors, not cops in K-12 schools", and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue Education Association passed a resolution on June 11, 2020 demanding an end to the placement of School Resource Officers in our district and recognizing "...that we participate in and perpetuate the school-to-prison pipeline and other expressions of institutional racism through our biases, our curriculum, our pedagogy, and our discipline policies, and that we continue to harm Black students and families when we do not act to dismantle institutional racism...", and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue School District in 2021 declined the Community Based Advisory Council's transformative recommendation to discontinue the School Resource Officer position and invest in mental health resources for our students, and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue Education Association signed the Eastside Pathway Equity Pledge as a partner organization on September 23, 2021, committing to "implement systemic change" and taking action to reduce harm for students of color, and

WHEREAS, the Bellevue School District has implemented the position of Community Engagement Officer for Fall 2022 with the power to conduct "...interviews and interrogations; search of a student's person, possessions or locker; citations, filing of delinquency petitions, referrals to a probation officer, actual arrests, and other referrals to the juvenile justice system consistent with [Policy 3230 \(PDF\)](#) and [Procedure 3230P \(PDF\)](#) – Student Privacy and Searches..." according to the [current CEO FAQ](#) available at the district website in July 2022.

WHEREAS, the Bellevue Education Association recognizes that many students and staff have experienced an increase in violence across campuses in recent years and there exist valid, important concerns regarding safety on campus.

WHEREAS, the BEA supports clarifying the responsibilities and further training of on-campus Administration to respond to incidents of violence and also to increase access to mental health counseling at our schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bellevue Education Association opposes the decision by the Bellevue School District to implement the Community Engagement Officer position as outlined above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bellevue Education Association supports equitable policing for public safety in our community beyond school campuses, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Bellevue Education Association calls on the Bellevue School District Board of Directors and Superintendent to take the necessary budget action to align with this resolution and in so doing reallocate resources for this program to further support wrap-around services necessary for our students and schools.