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SHERIFF
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UNDERSHERIFF

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: July 27, 2016

TO: Financial and Administrative Committee
Law and Judicial Committee

FROM: 
Undersheriff Raymond J. Rose

REFERENCE: Beach Park School District – Part-Time School Resource Officer Program

The Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and the Beach Park School District (District) Board of Education entered into a policing agreement in order to conduct a Part-Time School Resource Officer (SRO) Pilot Program from March 2016 through June 2016. The agreement required an SRO for 19 hours per week, that we jointly evaluate the program based on student body and community acceptance, faculty and administration opinion of the SRO's effectiveness and the deputy's (SRO's) reports and recommendations. The Pilot Program was deemed a success in terms of the impact it had on the student body, faculty and administration opinion and the SRO's recommendations for policy enforcement, see attached Pilot Program Activity Report.

Towards the end of the prior school year the Sheriff's Office and the School District met to discuss continuing the SRO Program during the 2016 – 2017 School Year. We also discussed additional SRO reporting requirements that further illustrate the contact the program is making with parents and students and impact it had on gaining the trust of the community. Due to financial constraints the district is only able to fund the position for 19 hours per week at the existing rate of \$63.00 per hour. The Sheriff's Office realizes that this does not cover the total operating costs of this program; however, the need to reach out to the community through its students and parents and the impact that this program has had on the school led to the cognizant decision to retain the program at the \$63.00 per hour rate.

We believe the working relationship between the Sheriff's Office, School District and Middle School is important and one that we should continue to cultivate. We hope that by continuing the program the school will continue to experience a decrease in difficult behaviors, continue to increase the trust between the SRO and the students and faculty of the school and in the community in general.

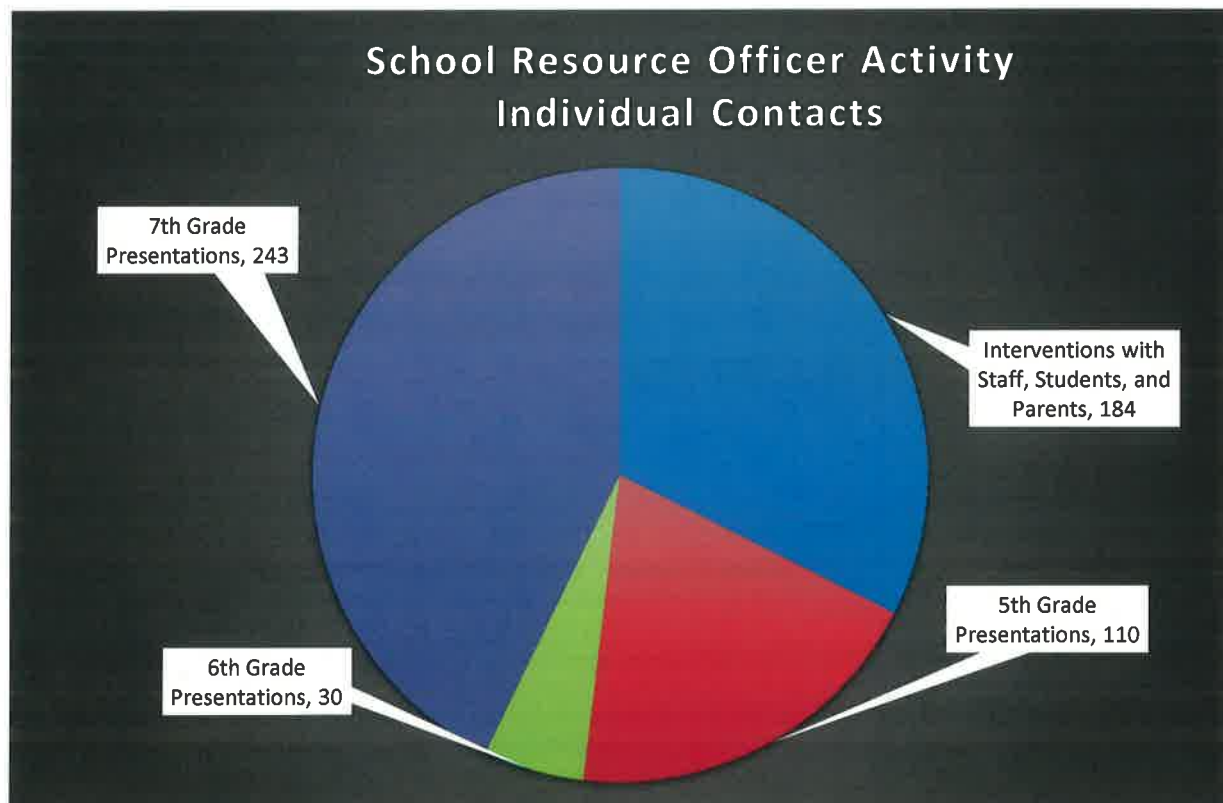
We will continue to inform the Committees and the County Board of the success of this program and respectfully request that the Committees and the County Board support this opportunity and approve the policing agreement that sits before it.

Attachment

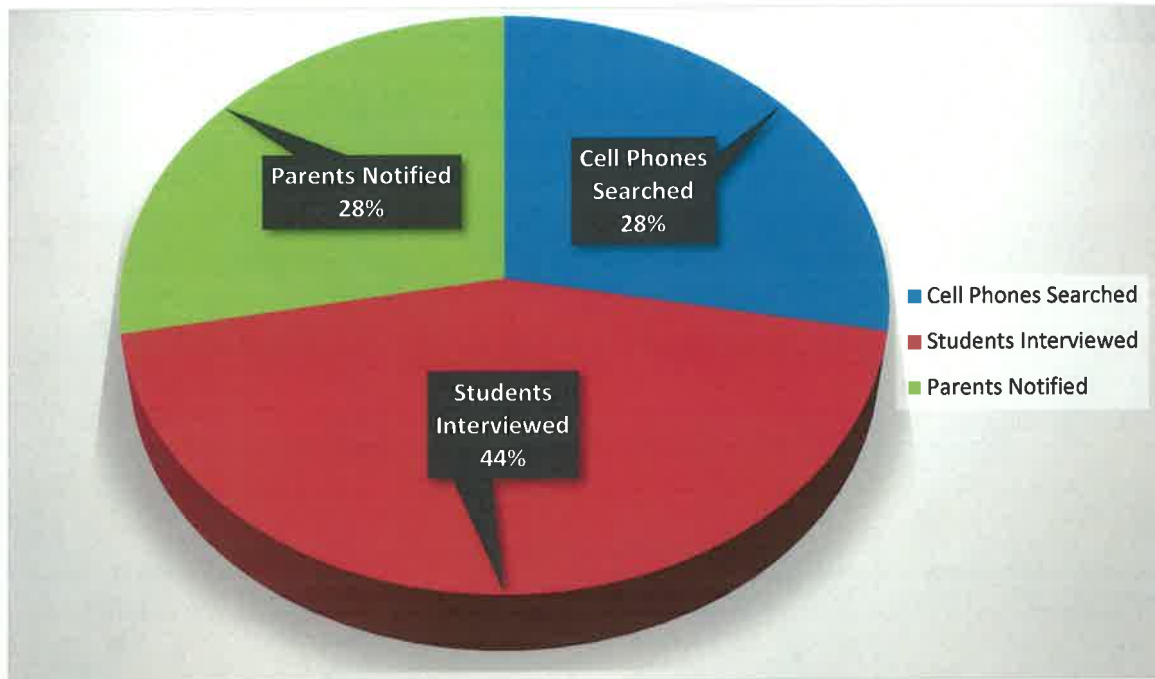
Pilot SRO Program, Beach Park Middle School

Activity Report, March 29, 2016 through June 2, 2016

- 184 interventions with students, teachers and parents.
 - Intervention with students having conflicts and poor behavior
 - Meetings with parents regarding student behaviors
 - Educate staff and parents regarding current issues
 - Options to resolve conflict (mediation, Teen Court, No Trespass Orders, etc.)
- Conducted one Lock-Down Drill and regular building security checks.
- Presentations:
 - 7 Anti-Bullying education and PowerPoint presentations, 13 students
 - Explained the role of SRO and expectations of students to incoming 6th graders, 110 students
 - The Role of Police Evidence Technician presentation to a 6th grade class, 30 students
 - 4 classrooms to address poor behavior and possible consequences, 112 students



- Investigated 6 incidents of “Sexting”:
 - Obtained parental consent to search the contents of 14 cell phones
 - Students interviewed, educated and counseled on the seriousness and potential consequences of “sexting”, 22 students
 - Parents notified and educated on the seriousness and potential consequences of “sexting”, 14 parents



- Consulted with School Administrators and formulated a plan for consistent enforcement of school policy; engaging and involving staff to help maintain a healthy learning environment (discontinue use of student/staff cell phones, staff sign-up for lunch duty).

Summary:

During the Pilot SRO Program at Beach Park Middle School, the SRO has built positive relationship with school administrators, staff, students and parents. The SRO gained the trust of students, who provided confidential information with respect to personal issues and safety concerns, which allowed the SRO to intervene in situations before they occurred (i.e. fights). The SRO's presence and ability to immediately intervene with unruly parents at school (and several home visits with upset parents) deescalated tense and unstable situations. The SRO and Beach Park School District Administrators concur this pilot program exceeded expectations and deemed a success.