

Madalyn Letellier

From: Courtney Foster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 7:13 PM
To: Mayor's Office; All City Council; Public Comments
Subject: No police in schools

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Dear Mayor Wilson and City Councilors,

This is Courtney Foster, a resident of [REDACTED] Somerville 02144. It has come to my attention that tonight the city council is discussing police in schools. The problems that surfaced with police presence in public life in 2020 never went away; people just forgot about them. We don't need police in schools and are better served spending limited public money on services which will actually help address the root causes of student concerns as well as on alternative, proven non-police methods. This will keep students safer and more focused on learning in the charged "public safety" environment we are still experiencing.

Thank you,
Courtney

Madalyn Letellier

From: Molly Fraust-Wylie [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 11:23 AM
To: Mayor's Office; All City Council; [REDACTED]; Public
Comments; Ruben Carmona
Subject: Please do not begin process of SRO discussion- we did this already
Attachments: Policing Subcommittee Recommendations.docx.pdf

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Please find my comments from the school committee meeting last night (5/18) below. As we already meaningfully engaged as a community about this for MANY, MANY years with multiple stakeholders, including voices of the communities most impacted, this is a waste of precious time and resources, and shows a refusal to acknowledge not just the communities wishes and [recommendations from the special subcommittee formed for this explicit purpose](#), but also widely reported [evidence based data](#) that time and time again demonstrates SROs are not the solution! Not in Massachusetts, not anywhere. It is also worth noting that the recommendations, which I've both linked and attached, are not posted on the Special Policing Subcommittee page on the city's website. For transparency purposes, this should be fixed with haste as the public has the right to that memo and information without having to do a deep dive (or in my case, without having historical context and knowledge of its existence to know to look for it.)

Good evening,

My name is Molly Fraust-Wylie. I'm an organizer with Safe Schools Somerville and I am a parent who has been working for many years to keep police out of our schools. My concern began when police were called on a first grader—a friend of my now 13-year-old son. That moment made it impossible for me to ignore the impact of policing in schools. Since then, I have stayed engaged because I believe our children deserve something better.

It is hard to believe we are at this point again.

In 2023, after years of collaboration, civic engagement, and sustained effort—much of it with people in this room—our community worked together to halt the policing of children in our schools. That process reflected careful dialogue, shared learning, and a clear understanding of harm. Yet here we are again.

The [memo](#) circulated in late April does not acknowledge the depth of that community work or the legal guidance and clear next steps that were already outlined. Those steps could have—and should have—been followed. The unanimous vote in March 2023 reflected what many of us understood clearly: the existing MOU needed to be ended, and we needed to stop policing children in our schools.

I want to share a few facts that have stayed with me as a parent.

Between 2018 and 2021—over 180-day school years, across just eight schools in our district—Somerville Police entered and exited our schools 4,300 times. When I first heard that number presented in a school committee meeting, it was framed as a point of pride. As a parent, I found it shocking and deeply disturbing.

More recently, I learned that of documented student interactions with police, 60% involved students from Next Wave Full Circle, who represent just 6% of the student population. That level of disproportionate impact on an already vulnerable group of students is not acceptable.

This is why Safe Schools Somerville continues to advocate for limiting police presence in Somerville Public Schools and investing instead in what we know supports students: counselors, restorative justice programs, and training in anti-racism and implicit bias.

We are not asking to reduce safety. We are asking to redefine it in ways that actually support children.

We know that police in schools cause harm, and research shows they do not prevent the harms they are often brought in to stop. Students of color, students with disabilities, and immigrant students are disproportionately impacted. This is not about individual intent or training. It is about how policing functions in schools and the unequal outcomes it produces.

We also know that our community has consistently and clearly expressed support for alternatives. Students, educators, and families have repeatedly called for restorative practices, mental health supports, and investment in caring, not punitive, systems. Safe Schools Somerville has gathered and delivered hundreds of comments opposing the return of school resource officers, and students themselves have conducted surveys documenting their experiences and concerns.

Finally, we all want our schools to be safe. But police presence in schools does not prevent school shootings, and in many cases, it can create environments that feel more punitive and less supportive for students.

I urge this body to return to the recommendations of the subcommittee and the SLO model. Our Community wants to see a policy that limits police presence to what is required by Massachusetts law, ensures transparency and parent involvement whenever police are engaged, and shifts our resources toward counselors, restorative justice, and supportive school environments.

Our children deserve schools that are safe because they are supportive—not because they are surveilled.

Thank you.

Molly Fraust-Wylie

██████████, Ward 2

Safe Schools Somerville

MEMO

To: Somerville School Committee
From: Special Policing Subcommittee Chair, Ellenor Barish
Date: February 15, 2023
Re: Recommendations of the Subcommittee

The Special Policing Subcommittee met eleven times over the course of the past thirteen months. For the first half of the year, the work of the subcommittee was primarily learning about the role of the School Resource Officer (SRO) in the past, about the purpose and content of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Somerville Public Schools and the Somerville Police Department (SPD) that was in place for recent years and the 2022 Commonwealth's Model MOU, and learning about Somerville Public Schools' (SPS) infrastructure of student support. After the start of the current school year, the Subcommittee heard feedback on school safety and policing in schools from community stakeholders including SPS students, staff, parents, and other concerned community members. This feedback was gathered through surveys, focus groups, public comment, and a web based comment form. At the end of November, Interim Superintendent Curley shared the district's proposal for police involvement in schools. In December and January, the Subcommittee considered that proposal and deliberated on recommendations. Presentations, meeting notes, and other related documents from all of the Subcommittee's meetings can be found on the Subcommittee's webpage.

<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee/special-policing-subcommittee>

At the Special Policing Subcommittee's January 31 meeting, members voted to make the following recommendations to the Somerville School Committee:

- 1. That the full school committee adopt the district's proposal to call the two police officers designated by SPD in emergency situations and direct the superintendent and/or his designee to develop guidance for SPS staff and administrators on their roles and responsibilities when calling and interacting with police that are based on the draft MOU SPS has been developing. Until such time that this guidance is developed and in place, the school department will work with legal counsel to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and our stated values to interrupt the school to prison pipeline.**

The "two police officers" referenced in the above recommendation were described in a proposal presented at the November 30 meeting of the Special Policing Subcommittee as follows: *These officers are part-time detectives specially trained to work with youth and families in Somerville. When they are not supporting the high school, the juvenile officers will have an assigned caseload involving youth and family service matters in the SPD Family Services Unit. The SLOs*

will receive specialized training, including in child and adolescent development, conflict resolution and diversion strategies, de-escalation tactics, anti-bias and trauma informed practices, behavioral health and any other training required by the Municipal Police Training Committee.

In that same proposal, Dr. Curley presented some specific items he would like to see included in a future Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Somerville Public Schools and the Somerville Police Department, though the subcommittee has not seen a preliminary draft of a new MOU.

- 2. That the superintendent work to establish an MOU with the SPD focused on calling an off-site SLO for the three incidents of criminal and delinquent conduct named in the State's 2022 model MOU. Upon a tentative agreement with the SPD, the superintendent will bring back a draft for approval by the full School Committee.**

SLO stands for School Liaison Officer, distinguishing these officers from the legally defined School Resource Officer. The three incidents referenced in this recommendation include conduct that:

- Poses substantial harm to physical wellbeing
- Willful, malicious, and substantial harm to school property
- Taking property of substantial value

- 3. That the superintendent focus the MOU on the three incidents laid out in the district's original proposal, revising the purpose, mission, goals, and objectives sections of the model MOU and cutting the second full paragraph on page three that is about intervening in incidents that do not meet the thresholds of criminal and delinquent conduct.**

The paragraph referenced in this recommendation:

For student conduct that requires immediate intervention to maintain safety (whether or not the conduct involves criminal conduct), the SRO may act to de-escalate the immediate situation (where feasible) and to protect the physical safety of members of the school community. To this end, school personnel may request the presence of the SRO when they have a reasonable and articulable fear of an imminent threat to their safety or the safety of students or other personnel.

- 4. That the SPS budget not fund police involvement in schools.**

The SPS budget has not funded police involvement in schools in recent memory. At the January 19, 2022 meeting of the Special Policing Subcommittee, then Superintendent Mary Skipper raised this as a question that the subcommittee might address.