

### Q3. What are the pros and cons of the Police Chief's thoughts of placing an armed officer in our schools?

#### Session 1

- Pros
  - deterrent, stop it fast, vetted/trained people, takes responsibility away from teachers.
  - Secure
  - Address immediately
  - Relationships with students and SRO
  - Student feeling and perception
  - Staff perception
  - Officer could stop shooter
  - Or shooter may not even try because of armed presence
  - Reduction of casualties
  - Increase discipline because officers on premises
  - Kids feel safer
  - Local control
  - Efficient implementation
  - Immediate response
  - A plan only protects it doesn't simply try to save lives
  - Can be put in place quickly
  - Insurance against problem ever rising
  - Armed officer on site can stop the attacker quicker. Save lives.
  - Would be great if sworn, covered by jurisdiction officer. Many other issues for them to deal with in school like mental emotional emergencies
  - We can say we did something
  - It would be a pro if the police department managed
  - I think this is a great idea! Would make me feel much safer as a parent with three students in the school district
- Cons
  - Budget impact, psychological effect on children who may be sensitive to additional security, potential for unintended engagement with other discipline issues.
  - Funding needs to come from gun sales profit or sales tax increase, not from educational funds or taxpayer dollars
  - Complacency
  - Address root cause
  - First target
  - Size of building versus number of individuals
  - Money
  - Student feeling and perception
  - SRO and police or armed civilian accountability?

- Staff perception
- There could be many entrances. One officer is not enough.
- Kids feel anxious because armed guard presents
- Tat money must be earmarked!
- Scary for kids in school to have an officer with a gun at all times
- False sense of security
- Very expensive
- Money can be used for better proactive measures to prevent violence
- I will homeschool or move districts if there is armed officers in my school
- Can't think of any
- Money. Officers doing this should be paid for this duty
- Difficulty of hiring enough people who are truly qualified. These people need to be current on response to active shooters, current on trauma sensitive, poverty related issues.
- Guns in schools equals access for kids.
- It would be a con if the school managed
- Create sense of fear of school and society
- Create false security that one person with a gun can protect the whole school
- Spending funds here would take phones away from needing services such as additional resource staff
- Diversion of funds
- Armed guard causing fear
- Will officer respond to everyday issues?
- How many doors can be guarded and at what cost?
- False sense of security. Or the reaction would be to quicken be a knee-jerk reaction
- Cost of \$2.5 million annual
- She preferred to shooters as cowards. Name-calling is not a solution.
- Reactive not proactive.
- statistically kids are in danger more so when traveling to and from school
- Won't deter from a fire alarm situation when a shooter is already a student in school pulls the alarm and get students to leave the building and shoot them from outside
- Costs outweigh any benefits. \$2.5 million can pay for more teachers and schools

Comments:

- More security
- Manage perception
- Doesn't have to be retired
- See points from question one: civilian look and feel undercover look
- Trauma comment from question one
- Root causes from question one
- Turn reaction into prevention
- Intermediate step only

- Listen to your teacher
- Prevention
- Concern of the role of the armed guard. Would it turn into handling behavior issues?
- Let's use Science to make some of these decisions. There is no clear science supporting the benefit of armed guards. The cost is unsustainable in my opinion.
- I vote for using those resources which an armed guard but it would cost to coordinate and sustain support of mental health collaboration with area agencies and more district and parent support staff.
- I am heartbroken about the money and resources that would be taken away from other students such as rural schools who are mightily struggling resource wise already. The money would now be dedicated towards armed guards year after year
- No pros!
- Police accidentally shooting a student or leaving a gun for student to access
- More guns equals increased risk of death and injuries
- We don't have the money! We need more social workers!
- For SROs at Parkland high school waited for swat.
- Where is the data that supports this?
- My kids are afraid of armed guards – should that be what they see every day? No!
- More guns is not the answer!
- SRO in my building is opposed to this.
- No money. Staff can't even get basic supplies
- Armed guards in Florida didn't even enter the building they waited for swat
- One guard per school??? Jefferson =116 students and Prebble = 2400 students...equity?
- Our kids from undocumented households are afraid of police and so are their parents
- The families want want to enter the building
- How soon before that armed guard is used to subdue angry kids? Now the entrance isn't secure.
- The possibility of power abuse by peace officers have they worked? Stoneman Douglas had one and he was outside. Situations may be over escalated. Racial profiling.
- When officers enter a school shoot, they're looking for anyone with a gun, may shoot the peace officer. Non-verbal/special needs kids who may not listen to orders may be in danger in situations, may get shot
- Con- cost, laws, retired personnel double dip law, the schools budget restraints
- Time of manning after school, sports, concerts, please?
- Vetting process
- Need to explore all options before getting on options that may be good but not as effective or less or more costly
- Don't reward the NRA in the process
- The reality of the times dictates the necessity
- Chief Andrew Smith has experience and we need to listen to him
- It's a necessity of the times

- This is only part of the solution. We need to address the issue from the mental health perspective also
- Is \$2.5 million per year or over a period of years?
- What is the damage to the psychological health of kids living in a police state?
- This is reactive and not proactive
- There is no research that supports the plan or idea that armed security actually makes it super school.
- I would like to have that expert to be known by students as an every day visitor who comes to know students and share time with them. Specially to get closer to those difficult students who don't do not want to approach easily to social or from the groups.
- Are there better ways to spend the money to keep kids safe?
- Trust
- Not afraid of police presence
- Someone has access to a gun if officer gets hurt
- Prior to hearing his explanation I was thinking the money would be better spent on mental health in the community however the expectation to increase response time was powerful. So I guess the biggest con is the money but the pro would be that increase response time. I would be worried a con would be this is the answer and remove resources from mental health initiatives. I worried in general but statistically the chance my kids will be killed in a mall is higher than school shooting so I'm not overly concerned about this
- More student social workers.
- Multiple entrances?
- Some schools have multiple entrances, how does this help?
- What about hidden remote entrances?
- Is this a part of a larger plan of safety?
- So much more prevention work could be done with more student services staff.
- Will the officer be asked to blur lines?
- \$2 million could pay for a lot of student service positions. Relationships are key!\*\*\*
- Kids with in the school letting other kids in – the armed guard wouldn't address this
- Schools are here to educate kids not pay for armed guards. \$2.5 million a year is a lot to take away from education.
- Are we trying to deter, intimidate, or stop people from coming into our schools?
- Not comfortable with armed officers at the front door. It will cause people to stay away from schools
- Size of weapon against automatic weapons?
- Some members of minority communities are miss trustful of police.
- Students over power officer and take the weapon?
- Expense, who pays for it?
- Police of different cultures would be important.
- People will fear the police are racist, fearing the police is real.
- Police who are bilingual
- There needs to be bilingual police to put in schools

- Is correct to consider the idea but some families may fear for this, Latinos - Of our culture.
- The amount of officials depending on the school is important
- Police veterans are supposed to have ideas but not so open about racism and also EXPERIENCES prove that contradict their involvement with our community.
- Fear of undocumented families or who have a criminal record. They will not relate to schools.

#### Session 2:

- Pros
  - A person who is one and only job is to provide armed protection at the point of entry
  - Good guy with gun versus bad guy
- Cons
  - Homeschool
  - Knee-jerk reaction to shoot
  - \$4.5 million annual budget cost
  - Safety officer being used for minor disorders like a fight or to enforce other school rules. This will lead to a highly paid whole monitor
  - Build relationships and trust less emphasis on armed
  - Cost
  - Personnel
  - Training
  - Cost
- Comments
  - How to ensure a kid couldn't get the officer's gun?
  - What would be the best way to harden our schools or security for keeping someone out
  - What are the school boards alternative plans to arm police officers in every school
  - Where is the money coming from a long-term? What would be card to pay for an officer?
  - I necessary at elementary schools.
  - Money would be better spent on school counselors
  - Need more monitors so teachers can teach and not handle behavior problems instead
  - Teachers armed with a gun is a crazy idea
  - What is a healthy balance?
  - Are counselors prepared to deal with mental health services? Sent out to others outside of just wrecked such as community partners
  - Teachers need to increase relationships with students
  - Students belong in the classroom

- Too many doors for one officer to man alone
- We have less money but need to be responsible to accomplish more
- The cost is high! As a parent I would gladly pay more taxes to pay those police in schools
- Feel safer with police in school walking around during school hours
- Train SRO to avoid their own opinions and they need to think of other opinions too
- The cost on going – not taking away from our already strapped budgets
- I do think it would be a deterrent
- Additional officers would also need to build relationships and not just be viewed as a guard
- Armed personnel lesson response time
- The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun
- Who are they going to replace at the school? Are they going to be expected to discipline children?