

Pottsville School District Police Department

Superintendent Larry Dugger

Board Member Clint Hull

Officer Tim Overturf

Officer Blake Herren

About the Community of Pottsville and Pottsville School District

- The community of Pottsville has a population around 2800 and is located in the River Valley about five miles east of Russellville.
- PSD's student population is 1730.
- We currently have 235 employees.
- Our district currently has four school building with K-3 and 4-6 on one campus, 7-9 and 10-12 on another campus.
- We currently employ three district law officers.

History Of SROs at PSD

- 2004 PSD and Pottsville Police Department partnered to place an SRO in the district
- Began as a 50/50 shared expense
- The district eventually began to reimburse the full cost of the SRO to the city
- 2017 PSD chose to place another SRO in the district at the Elementary and Middle Grades campuses
- I attended the NASRO basic SRO training that summer in Hutto, TX

History

- I learned that Texas schools are authorized to have their own police departments.
- I notified Mr. Dugger, and then I began to research that possibility for our state and district.
- Twenty other states have laws allowing the Board of Directors of a school district to approve a district police department.
- After gathering model statutes, the idea was presented to Dr. Prothro and ASBA.
- With their support, Mr. Dugger contacted Senator Breanne Davis to inquire if she would sponsor a bill.
- Senator Davis sponsored SB 692, and it was passed.

Why Our Own

- Student Safety is a top priority.
- We were paying employees that really were not under our authority.
- New mayor or police chief = new set of rules to play by
- We had CSSO status at one point.
- The officers cannot be called away to go work an accident/incident for the city
- Training to fit our district's needs
- Have to be committed for years to come
- We are committed to protecting our students and faculty by having our own police department for years and future generations.

Things to Consider

- Who to hire
- Budget – pay, uniforms, computers, cameras, firearms, radios
- Liability
- Vehicles
- They are not the school discipline police
- Handle safety and criminal acts

Additional Security Features for the District

- Shatter-proofed all glass doors
- Magnetic entries with video at all main entrances around the schools
- As many as 25 cameras in all buildings
- All classrooms have a locking mechanism from inside the classroom as an extra barrier

Creating a New Police Department

- All the following information needs to be sent to Deputy Director Brad King (CLEST)
- Have to get on CLEST agenda
- Copy of policies and procedures for the department
- A proposed budget of expenditures for the department
- A letter from the superintendent requesting the department

ACIC/NCIC

- Apply for an ORI number
- A letter to Standards, the Chief of the New Department and the Superintendent that states we are a department
- A copy of the proposed budget
- Be approved by 911 and the sheriff or chief of the county or city where the district is going to be transmitting the radio traffic through
- Each officer in the department will have to take an online test to be certified to use the system
- Everyone will need a Standard Operating Guide

Program for Reports

- Types of Reports
 1. Relative public safety
 2. New World
- A report has to be sent in each month to the company that district purchased the program through, so they can send it to the state to monitor criminal activity in the area and the state

Personnel

- A copy of personnel files
- Training record (each officer has to have a total of 16 hours of training per year to keep his/her certification)
- A copy of policy and procedures for each officer
- A copy of inventoried items for each officer

Contact Information/Questions

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