

To: GMRSD School Committee

From: Michael Sullivan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Date: January 8, 2017

Re: Report for School Committee meeting of January 10, 2017

1. This report is brief as the majority of my time since our last meeting has been spent developing the FY18 preliminary budget in consultation with the district's administrative team. As I will also be presenting information this evening about affective learning initiatives and student enrollment, I may be speaking more than we are accustomed to or is generally desirable.
2. On Tuesday, January 4, I was invited to speak to the Montague finance committee about the requirements and desirability of having a district school resource officer (SRO). School committee members Sandy Brown, Jane Oakes, and Timmie Smith were also in attendance and spoke at the meeting. I conveyed to the finance committee the information I recently received from DESE's lead attorney, stating that the clause, "subject to appropriation", in the state SRO statute may be interpreted to mean SROs are not legally required and therefore requesting a waiver from DESE to not procure one is also not required. Montague Police Chief Dodge and I both communicated our desire to have an SRO, and I emphasized that finding funds for one may continue to present a significant challenge. The chief stated that he would not have funds in his budget for one next year. The finance committee asked the school district and the police department to keep communicating on this matter prior to the police department's budget presentation on February 2.