

LETTER: Hopkins Schools and student resource officer conversations

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To the Editor:

As a community member with three grandchildren in Hopkins Public Schools, I have closely followed the district's conversations about school safety and security over the past few months. While I wasn't able to attend the first "conversation" Sept. 23, I read the report about it in this newspaper. I attended the virtual "conversation" on Oct. 7 and was struck by a few things.

First, the superintendent made the claim that there is no active effort to reinstate or prevent SROs (school resource officers) at the high school. However, this flies in the face of the petition, signed by 240 community members (including me) and submitted last June that specifically endorsed reestablishing SROs in the high school, clearly an active effort.

Later, a community member spoke and called out the need for robust conversations about reestablishing SROs and their potential role in a "holistic safety plan." I was encouraged to hear the superintendent respond that this is the start of those conversations.

It is clear to me that community proponents of improved school safety and security have been eager to engage in these conversations for some time. It's now up to the district to demonstrate they are listening.

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