

Public Comments Submitted For The Board Of Education Meeting - 12/14/20

I am writing this statement to express my concerns regarding the remote learning being provided for our children. I have a Senior that attends Worthington Kilbourne High School and an 8th grader at Phoenix Middle School. My children, along with ALL children attending Worthington Schools, should be in their classrooms. It is a well-known fact that children do not receive the same quality of education attending class remotely than they receive in the classroom. My children have attended a handful of different schools around the country due to my husband's military career and when it came time for my husband to retire from the US Military and for us to decide where we would "lay down our roots" we decided that we wanted our children to attend school in the Worthington School District. We even moved back to Ohio so they could continue attending school in Worthington. I never thought the day would come where I would regret this decision, but the recent decisions by the school district have me concerned about the education my children are receiving.

In previous meetings I thought Dr. Bowers said something about being transparent with Worthington families. I believe the BOE and Dr. Bowers have been anything but transparent with the families of Worthington. I don't need to go over all the data that says kids SHOULD be in school, every one of you already know that and still choose not to follow it. I believe that the reason given to us for not having the kids in the classroom at the last meeting was due to staffing and having the support staff to cover classes. There must be a way to think outside of the box to fix this issue. There must be, because there are school districts in central Ohio that do have their kids in the classroom. The families of Worthington voted you into your positions to make decisions such as this. I'm not saying that the decisions in front of you are not challenging, but our kids deserve leaders that are doing everything possible to get them back in the classroom. I think we can all agree that this is where they belong. I find it amazing that schools here in Ohio and around the nation have figured out how to get kids back in the classroom, but the Worthington school district cannot.

I am begging you to do what is best for our students and that is to provide our children a top-notch education from their classrooms for the parents and students who want to be in school. Also, it is your job to provide the same type of education for those families who wish to do it remotely. You have robbed these kids of so much already let's do the right thing and get our kids back in the classroom.

Rachelle Kramer
7965 Saddle Run

We would like to express our appreciation for Nikki Hudson and all she has done for our community. It has been a tough year, obviously, for many reasons. As a blended family with 2 adopted children from Ethiopia, we are trying to navigate this complicated world. It has been reassuring to know that Nikki is going to represent all students in the community. Nikki is a person of action who doesn't just talk about making things right. She is a rare blend of someone who is compassionate and knowledgeable but knows how to enter in to see real change happen. She is an asset to our community. We are so grateful for her.

Sincerely,
Doug and Jen Ferguson
176 Loveman Ave, Worthington, OH 43085

My name is Amy Sumner and I reside at 870 Oxford Street, and I have three children enrolled in our district.

Being in a position of decision making during a global pandemic has to be one of the most challenging roles of our time. As a parent, I know that you are aware of the intricacies of what our district needs to know to make tough choices for our children, such as busing, substitute teacher shortages, quarantine timelines and more that are not known to me. I want to take this moment to thank all of you for the time, commitment and love you've put in to deciding how to run our schools during this tough time. Though I may not always agree, I trust and know your process is a solid one based on reason, science, and looking at all the information from our health department and our mental health professionals. Please know you are appreciated and our family is grateful for all you're doing.

Leadership isn't easy.

On that note, I want to take a moment to make it known that I am so grateful for our board's President, Nikki Hudson. She always has, and continues to, look at every angle of all situations, leading based on research, not emotions. Perhaps one of the most difficult things as leaders making choices for our children is to put aside emotions and look at statistics and research and decide what is best for all our students. She has my complete support and I am grateful for her. I am in awe of the grace she has shown recently as her role is being criticized and challenged. I know you all must know and see how hard she works for all of us and how dedicated she is to all our children.

As a teacher who taught in an inner city of New Jersey for nine years and who has a masters in education administration and supervision, I'd like to speak on the topic of SRO's which put the focus on Nikki. Safety of our children is always the first priority. Safety, however, is a broad and nuanced word.

The school that I worked at initially had SROs act as cops; arresting students from our building and tracking children into our penal system. This was a disservice to us all. Kids make childhood mistakes and instead of learning from them and correcting behaviors, they were being pushed into the criminal justice system. My principal at the time, and many others in the district, decided to change how SROs were used, not as the cops they were trained and paid to be, but as mentors. This role could have been done at much less economic cost to our district, but you can only change what you can in your own building. As a teacher in this building, this change was immense for our students. Witnessing students begin to see cops as the helpers that they are, not as something to be scared of, was amazing. Seeing children feel confident enough to seek police officers out for guidance and to not fear them was awesome. Of course my school still had fights, gang problems and other issues, however we used the Crisis Intervention Teachers (CITs) for these situations. We used cops in the role of student advocate and the CIT would be the one giving out the discipline. This is an anecdotal way of saying SROs can really hurt the well-being of students if used incorrectly. There are other ways of protecting our children to keep them safe, like putting police officers outside our buildings. Let kids be kids and make the mistakes kids make in our buildings without introducing them to an unforgiving criminal justice system that is not designed to help kids learn to modify their behavior. Our board decided to do this with their recent vote, brought up by Nikki after months/years of discussion, and I'm thankful for our board's decision to remove SROs from our buildings.

Thank you for your time listening to my note, and again for all your doing for all of our children.

The need for Mrs. Hudson to step aside as BOE president is intuitively obvious to every casual observer of the last six months our community has endured. If Mrs. Hudson genuinely cares for the students & our community she has to recognize how much division & turmoil her leadership has created. Our community requires peace & unity. Mrs. Hudson cannot foster either of those qualities.

Mrs. Hudson your time as BOE President is over.

Sincerely,
Deborah Abbott

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter tonight. My name is Sarah Kuhnell. I am a parent of two children in the district who is writing to express my support and appreciation for the leadership of School Board President, Nikki Hudson.

As anyone tuning in to watch the board meetings over the past many months has witnessed, there is a small group of people who have made the choice to attack Mrs.

Hudson and her leadership on the board. I believe it is important to provide the community with another view of Mrs. Hudson, one that showcases the commitment and hard work she puts into leading decisions impacting our district.

Mrs. Hudson took her position on the school board three years after seeing a need for a voice at the table that would speak for the interests of those underrepresented groups in our district. She understands that all children deserve the highest quality education, the safest school environment (both physically and psychologically), and the most equitable and inclusive school experience.

She also knows that not every parent has an equal voice in the conversation. Many parents can't show up or write letters to raise concerns on behalf of their children, many children don't have an advocate in the home fighting for their rights, and many community members may be in the dark on how things can be improved to create a more just and transparent system for students in Worthington. Mrs. Hudson is making sure every child is spoken for.

While it may appear, to some, that votes Mrs. Hudson has cast have gone against a popular opinion, it is important to note that every vote cast is the result of hours and hours of work diving into the topic. She researches studies based in factual data, explores what other districts around our state and country have done, meets with community members and students in groups and one-on-one, shows up for community initiated events supporting causes impacting our students and staff, and continuously shares all of the information she gathers with anyone interested in learning alongside her. She is not seeking popularity; she is seeking the best outcome for all students. This thoughtful, researched and transparent leadership is exactly what this district needs as we navigate change for the future.

Change isn't ever easy. In fact, real change is almost always uncomfortable. It means you are shedding an old way of doing something and embracing something new. But change is the only way we grow in a positive direction. We see this in nature, as plants push through the dirt before they can blossom each Spring. We experience this with our own children, as we support them in the difficulties of adolescence while they learn who they are and how the world works. We should expect no less discomfort as we face the challenges of change associated with the evolution of our district. Not everyone will be happy with decisions that are made – because change is hard. But sometimes the hard thing to do is the RIGHT thing to do. And this is where Mrs. Hudson does not falter. She continues to show up, through the hard, to make sure the right thing is being done for ALL students and staff within our district.

Thank you for your time tonight. I continue to support Nikki Hudson as the strong leader this School Board needs to help us change for the future.

Sincerely, Sarah Kuhnell

Dear Board members and Worthington Parents,

My family and I have lived in Worthington for over 40 years, I attended school from K-12, graduated from TWHS, and I have two teenage daughters attending district schools. My husband and I chose to raise our children here because of the quality of our schools. Although I dearly love Worthington, I have never been ignorant of racially motivated discrimination that takes place here. For example, Colonial Hills, where I attended elementary, is located in what was originally a "red lined" community, meaning one in which non-whites were not allowed to live. This attitude persists among some Worthington residents to this day. For example, this summer at an event held on the Green, one of our recent Thomas graduates read a poem in which he mentioned that, due to his good grades and behavior, he was often told growing up that he was "The Whitest Black Guy in Worthington." After reading this poem, his family's home was egged.

Most are also now aware of the event that occurred during a demonstration held in downtown Worthington in early summer in which Worthington students and graduates came into conflict with the driver of the local Ace Hardware vehicle who used a racial slur and pushed one student with the vehicle. Because this involved our students, our school board was contacted by parents and students. School board members received a number of emails regarding this issue and other racially motivated incidents in Worthington. One issue that has predominated discussions since 2018 when it was first under consideration, has been the presence of SROs (law enforcement officers) in our high schools.

Research suggests that SROs do not prevent school shootings. There were SROs present at; Columbine, Parkland, Marshall County HS, Great Mills, and Santa Fe, among others. The most thorough analysis done to date, the ALERRT study, which evaluated 160 incidents, found that SROs are largely ineffective at preventing or halting such events. Due to the size of modern schools, SROs are simply unable to get to where the shooter starts in time to have any effect. In instances where shootings were halted, it has been by staff members who were nearby. Realistically, the best course of action is prevention, through identification of troubled students, rather than reaction once the shooting has started. The best way to secure our kids is to have mental health experts on campuses getting to know kids and identifying those who need intervention.

Other than the ineffectiveness of SROs in preventing school shootings, a decade of evidence collected from around the country suggests that the primary outcome of SROs has been increased prosecution of students of color for non-criminal, behavioral issues. SROs have led to what human rights organizations call the "school to prison pipeline," which is part of how U.S. got to where we are now: the country with 4% of the world's population but more people incarcerated than any other on earth. Corporations use prison labor, so this has provided cheap/free labor that taxpayers pay to house and feed but who our labor force has to compete with in the sense that free labor drives down wages. Because of this flow of free labor from our schools into our prisons there is a

strong interest in maintaining programs that lead to incarceration. Worthington student, graduates and parents who are aware of this issue and how it relates to racism in America, have been reaching out to our school board through petition and email to have their voices heard.

After months of receiving emails on the issue and listening to arguments on both sides, WSB decided not to renew the contract created first in 2018 to bring SROs into our high schools. The vote was carried by Charlier Wilson, Amy Lloyd and Nikki Hudson. However, in recent WSB meetings, Mrs. Hudson alone has been targeted by those seeking to restore SROs in schools. I am offended by their hostility and slander. Nikki has been an excellent school board member; one who has sought out and considered a variety of perspectives and evidence from both sides. Through my personal experience with her, I know that she is involved in our schools in many positive ways, including organizing Staff Appreciation events at the middle school my daughter attends. Nikki is a committed and caring person who decides how she will vote only after reaching out to the community to understand the experience of parents, teachers and students.

I want to express my gratitude to her for her sincerity, compassion and hard work.

Sincerely,
Lesley Saeed

My name is Brinda Copsey and I'm the mother of a 9th grader at TWHS. I live at 228 Pingree Drive.

I support Nikki Hudson to remain in her position as Board President. It's my understanding that serving two full year terms was discussed prior Mrs. Hudson's first year term, and that there is precedent for a Board member staying in this position when other Board members are unable to take on the challenge. Julie Keegan served two terms consecutively, with Marc Schare serving two terms consecutively as Vice President. Jennifer Best completely a term for Sam Shim when he was asked to step down after he misrepresented his role as President during a screening process for Columbus City Council appointment, and served a full term the following year.

I think Mrs. Hudson has done an excellent job at advocating for our kids and our Worthington Schools teachers and staff in her first term as a Board member and serving this last term as Board President. This has been a trying time for all of us. A deadly pandemic, continued racial injustices, and the ever present need for a better statewide funding plan for our public schools. Mrs. Hudson has shown an ability to adapt, learn, grow, and humble herself to the needs of the public, and I value those qualities.

It's because I know that Nikki Hudson, and Charlie Wilson, opposed the SRO program as initially presented and ultimately implemented, I can't help but feel that this manufactured controversy is personal. I fear, based on past behaviors of one Board

member in particular, that whether Nikki Hudson is re-elected as Board President or Jennifer Best is selected it will be used as a cudgel against Mrs. Hudson in the coming election year. I fear that a new President will succumb to pressure from a small activist who seem to have made Mrs. Hudson a target, and put the SRO issue back on the agenda just to keep the outrage high and in despite of the fact that the majority of the Board has made their stances known. So, let Mrs. Hudson get on with leading as planned and let her seek reelection on her record alone instead of grudges and innuendo.

We are in the midst of a deadly global pandemic, and this meeting is being held on the 7th anniversary of the Sandy Hook School shooting. God forbid Worthington Schools face a tragedy on any scale in a time like this where our School Board is seen as quibbling over who's going to gavel in meeting or do some administrative work. I need to be able to think of my School Board members as keeping books and air conditioning and desks and roofs and crossing guards in the front of mind. I need my Board members to respect each other and allow for a person placed in a leadership position to lead. I need the pettiness to end and the progress to extend, and I need those responsible for starting interpersonal drama or turning interpersonal drama into an agenda item to be held accountable so that our teachers and kids are the priority, not scoring points on each other or creating controversy to build a resume for future office. Let it go. Get back to business.

Thank you,
Brinda Copsey

Dear Worthington School Board members and Administrators,

My name is Meg Kane and I write to you today in support of Nikki Hudson, WSB member and President.

I believe we would benefit from Mrs. Hudson continuing in the role of school board president for another term.

We have seen repeatedly Mrs. Hudson's dedication to thoughtful decision-making and considering all stakeholders in a process- even and especially those who may not be present at a meeting. To be perfectly forthcoming, there have been several instances when I have not agreed with Mrs. Hudson on an issue, but I have greatly respected the manner in which she gathered information through measured process and consulted experts to ensure she was making a decision that benefitted the greatest number of people and acted on behalf of all children, not just those whose parents came to a meeting. I want a leader who I can trust to act appropriately at all times, to perform with integrity, to understand the magnitude of decisions that need to be made and leave their personal agenda out of these decisions.

This is conduct I have seen repeatedly in Mrs. Hudson and not in all other members of the school board. A review of the archives indicates this would not be the first time a president has served back to back terms so a precedent exists for such an action. I also understand that there are no specific rules preventing someone from serving as such.

Additionally, given the times we are living in the consistency of such a choice would be helpful in accomplishing goals for the Board and the community.

Finally, I would be remiss in not mentioning that it is abundantly clear an attack is being launched at Mrs. Hudson right now in a way that no other board member is being attacked. She is being targeted for standing on the right side of history and showing up for ALL of Worthington's children.

The divisiveness we are seeing is further stoked by the behavior of other members of the board, which is an action I do not pretend to understand. This is yet another reason why ethical and transparent conduct needs to be prioritized and Nikki's leadership maintained.

Thank you for your consideration.

Meg Kane
167 Abbot Avenue, Worthington

My name is Kate Djupe and I reside on Clearview Avenue. I am the parent of a 6th and an 8th grader.

I am writing to you today in support of School Board President Nikki Hudson and her leadership on behalf of the students, teachers, and administrators of this district. We are in need of her consistent, thoughtful leadership.

If there is one thing 2020 has shown, it is that our local, national leaders need to speak for all people, especially those who are marginalized and underrepresented and have been systematically excluded from decision-making.

Since her election to the school board three years ago, Mrs. Hudson has made it evident that doing the hard work of listening and considering multiple perspectives is a priority for her. I have watched many school board meetings where dedicated parents show up and read letters or make statements to advocate on behalf of our students and the things they say are heard by her but what is remarkable is that she then also seeks out the input of the parents who are not equally represented, those who do not necessarily have the privilege to spend hours at a board meeting waiting to be heard, or

even the children who may not have an adult in a position to advocate for their interests in this way at all.

Mrs. Hudson understands what equity is, and what it is not, and she knows that our school district is stronger and more beautiful when we include everyone as a standard. She refuses to engender a system wherein a child's circumstances foretell their academic success.

This has been a year marked by divisiveness and harmful rhetoric, and we have seen those on our own board sink to levels of duplicitousness, self-aggrandizement, and self-promotion in the absence of actual work. Mrs. Hudson has risen above that to continue to produce real results in the areas of safety, best outcomes and practices, and growth mindsets for our children and teachers while also continuing to encourage the community towards a place of equality, equity, and inclusion.

I have not always agreed with the decisions or positions of Nikki. I do appreciate that when we disagree, I know that she has considered more positions and complexity than I to come to her stance. Somehow, knowing that there was true deliberation that considered so many different circumstances has made it easier to reconsider my own beliefs.

It is no secret at this point that a small but vocal contingency in our community feels very wronged by some of the board's decisions as they perceive them to be one-sided. They are entitled to their opinion. I am not sure if it possible that they will have a similar reaction as I have - knowing there has been research and a consultative process before well-researched decision-making and then reevaluating and reconsidering or even finding peace in the difference of opinion. It does seem ignorant to place the weight of their disagreement at the feet of one board member.

Mrs. Hudson has guided us to a place of change, and as we have all told our children, change isn't easy. Growth can be downright uncomfortable (that's why they're called "growing pains"). The right path is rarely the easy path. This is why our family is grateful to Mrs. Hudson as she continues to do the right thing for all Worthington kids.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter. Our family remains in support of Mrs. Hudson as Worthington School Board president as her leadership has been a beacon in a difficult and contentious time.

Best,
Kate Djupe

Dear Board Members,

In these contentious times, I am writing to express my support of Nikki Hudson as school board president. I am thankful of her thoughtful and measured approach to all manner of issues that come before the board. Likewise, I am heartened by what she has done to keep the district's children safe and well. As an educator and healthcare professional, I can confidently say the Worthington School system is better off with her steady hand at the helm.

Steven L. Ciciora M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
Fellowship Program Director
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Good afternoon,

As coronavirus cases continue to soar to tragic highs, the Ohio Education Association has asked Governor Mike DeWine to issue a statewide order for all schools to utilize remote learning until January 11. I am asking you Dr. Bowers & the Worthington School Board to please heed this advice and stay remote until AT LEAST 1/11. We are just now seeing the devastating effects on the healthcare system due to travel and gatherings over Thanksgiving, and many experts predict Christmas surges will be much worse because it will also include the NYE holiday.

Sending our teachers, students and staff back into the buildings is not safe. It feels reckless and unnecessary when time and time again we have seen what happens in our communities and in our hospitals after people gather and travel for the holidays.

Let's do our part by staying remote for as long as possible until we can get our community spread under control and get hospital capacity to a manageable place.

Thank you for your time,

Lyndsey Dudley (mother of 2 Worthington Estates students)
6980 Rieber St.
Worthington, OH 43085

Hi...my name is Shannon Navin and I live at 1638 Dollivor Drive Columbus, Ohio 43235.

I am writing today to offer my support for Board President, Mrs. Nikki Hudson. As you may be aware, recently, a small contingent within our community has become very vocal in their concerns about her role and some of her decisions and behavior. Because that group has obviously felt compelled to attack Mrs. Hudson publicly and vociferously and as I strongly disagree with their position, I felt strongly that I should take a minute to communicate my overwhelming respect and support for Mrs. Hudson and the work she has done for our Board, our schools and our children.

Mrs. Hudson has stepped up, in what has turned out to be a very difficult and unprecedented time, to lead the Board as President. The difficulty of the situations and decisions she has been faced with - given a global pandemic and its implications and a summer of tremendous social upheaval and racial tension - are truly unheard of. While some have disagreed with the positions that she has taken in response to those circumstances, I have observed Mrs. Hudson's behavior closely and found her to be incredibly professional, responsive and dedicated to researching and understanding the issues. She is adamant about her responsibility for representing ALL of the students and their families in the Worthington School District and is not afraid to make difficult, even unpopular, decisions when she knows they are right and fair. When presented with concerns and data that clearly showed that SROs were detrimental to our district, Mrs. Hudson did not hesitate to push for a decision that was strongly supported by data. Mrs. Hudson is able to separate feelings from facts and act as the leader our district needs to move us forward on social issues that may be seen as difficult and divisive. By focusing on the data and on the needs of those who are less represented in our district, Mrs. Hudson helped guide a decision that will protect and support all of our students. While there is a vocal minority that seems to feel strongly that Mrs. Hudson has behaved recklessly in that decision, I strongly disagree and encourage each of us to remember that Mrs. Hudson is both Board President and mother. Her children attend or will attend the schools for which she leads these decisions. I cannot imagine a situation in which a mother would encourage a decision that would put her own children in harm's way. Mrs. Hudson has done the legwork to understand this issue in way that many in the community have not. She cannot be criticized if there are factions of the community who refuse to or cannot understand the data that makes this issue clear.

While the SRO issue is only one of the ways in which Mrs. Hudson has led the school board on behalf of our children, it's an important example that illuminates Mrs. Hudson's strong leadership, professionalism and dedication to the children in our district. A small group of community members and a disgruntled member of the Board cannot be allowed to derail the progress that we are making as a district in this unprecedented time. It is my understanding that Mrs. Hudson would like the Board's support in continuing her role as Board President for another year. Her excellent performance and demonstrated care and concern aside, I strongly support maintaining continuity within the Board for the 2021 year by allowing Mrs. Hudson to continue with her leadership. She has consistently taken the high road in the face of unfortunate attacks from inside and

outside the Board. Her integrity and character are exactly what we need to continue to promote in this difficult and divisive time. For all of these reasons, I ask that the Board continue to support Mrs. Hudson in her leadership and allow her to continue her role as Board President for the next year.

Best,
Shannon Navin

I would like my comments below read at tonight's BOE meeting during Visitor Comments on the agenda.

When this Board opted to start school in remote mode back in August then delay switching to hybrid until September 29, we were told you wanted to "wait and see" what happened in other districts. What we have seen is that other suburban school districts in closest geographic proximity to us have managed to have their students in their school buildings far more than Worthington and with no harm. Indeed, Olentangy has stayed in hybrid, Hilliard just voted to return to hybrid for this last week before break, and Dublin still is in hybrid mode for their younger grades. Meanwhile, our kids are now entering week 5 of this second round of remote learning. My kids and many, many others are struggling academically and mentally. It's not clear to me what has been gained by the "wait and see" approach other than our kids missing valuable time in the classroom.

Why did Worthington not consider a return to hybrid before Winter Break like other districts? Franklin County moved back to red 2 Thursdays ago, yet this Board did not even seem interested in exploring a return to hybrid like other neighboring districts. What is the reason for the return to remote and refusal to switch back to hybrid despite improving conditions? Initial indications were that it was a staffing issue, not concerns with Covid-19 spread among students, but since then there are reports from numerous sources within the community that staffing was not a problem. It is very frustrating as a parent to not even understand the decision making process.

Looking ahead, will our kids return to hybrid on January 4? If not, parents are entitled to know the criteria for staying in remote and, more importantly, the criteria for returning to hybrid. It is my ardent hope that our kids will start 2021 in hybrid mode. I urge this Board not to yet again take a "wait and see" approach and opt to stay in remote for the first week or two in January. This Board, frankly, has already wasted too many precious days of in-school learning and cannot continue to be so cavalier. Do you know that Worthington students have been in school only either 18 or 19 **days** based on their group? 18 or 19 days! Worthington opted to keep our kids in remote before Thanksgiving until Winter Break, while other schools continued in hybrid, and for what gain? Our kids are going into Winter Break despising school and falling more and more behind.

I assume the negative effects on academics is obvious, though it is troubling that neither

my middle school nor high school sons have had any measure of academic growth or loss. There are many parents sharing on social media that their children who always had good grades are now failing classes. This is true in my house as well. Beyond academics, is this Board aware of the widespread and serious detrimental effect remote learning is having on our kids mental health? Again, social media is flooded with Worthington parents sharing how their kids are crying, having outbursts of anger, or maybe even worse are just checking out and refusing to participate in yet another Zoom class. My sons are truly miserable. They dread Mondays and the start of more Zoom classes. They are beyond bored with remote school and just want it to be over. I'm worried that my 8th grader who has always loved school might never like it again. And while the schools may say they are concerned with mental health and have resources available, the stark reality is that the teachers who would be the ones to notice a kid struggling if they were in school where the teacher could see body language or have a one-on-one quick chat before or after class are not going to notice these kids on Zoom. To that point, none of my 8th grade son's teachers seem to know how much he is struggling. I hear anecdotally of other kids doing far worse, to the point where they don't want to get out of bed or dressed for their classes and battle with their parents over doing assignments. I'm not sure how many of these parents have the time or energy to email the Board, but you need to know it's not just an isolated case or two.

The decisions and penchant of this Board to continue with remote learning have deleterious effects on our students that far outweigh the benefit to be gained. It is maddening to watch Olentangy schools just 5 miles north of us go almost the entire first semester in hybrid without incident, while our kids have languished for 9 weeks stuck at home. You wanted to "wait and see" what happened in other districts. Look no further than Olentangy. Now apply what you have learned, and get our kids back in school.

Pamela Fair
217 Greenbrier Ct. Worthington, OH 43085

Dear members of the Worthington School Board:

It is my understanding that there will be a vote tonight on the interim President through the January school board meeting and the 2021 Board President will be voted on January 11, 2021.

Having lived in the District for the past 16 years with our youngest entering her Senior year in the Fall I have never seen so much division within the community as I have over the past year. I, along with many, view the source of this division as being directly tied to the current Board President, Nikki Hudson.

I urge you to vote for a change in leadership in the Board for the upcoming year.
Sincerely Yours,

Geoffrey Hatcher, 1013 Clubview Blvd, S

As the positive cases of coronavirus continue to soar to tragic levels, the Ohio Education Association has asked Governor Mike DeWine to issue a Statewide order for all schools to utilize remote learning until January 11. My hope is that he would issue that, however if he does not, whether it be because of politics or not, I hope that you look past the politics of this relentless virus.

This is about much more than the number of those that regretfully die from this virus. By not taking a unified stance and showing the Worthington Community that we take the care of everyone seriously, it leaves some with a mixed message on just how serious this virus is. It is still not only taking a toll on life, but a toll on mental health, long term health issues, extreme stress on healthcare workers let alone all of the businesses that are forced to let workers go because we are stuck in this revolving cycle of circumstances.

Someone needs to lead. Someone needs to take this seriously and stop doing the same things expecting a different outcome. Time and time again, since March 2020, we have seen what happens in our communities and in our hospitals after people gather and travel for the holidays. We need to make a stand. I understand what we all WANT, but we will never get that from this relentless virus without doing our part. Wanting to get back to normal or as normal as possible will never happen until we do what must be done. The time for nickel and dime(ing) or simply putting a band-aid on this are over. More must be done.

I understand that this is not the change that many of us would like, but that must be addressed as this is our new reality. This is real. This virus has changed the way we do our day-to-day and we need to embrace that or at least acknowledge that and pivot.

I am asking you Dr. Bowers & the Board to please heed the advice of the OEA and stay remote until AT LEAST January 11th.

We are just now seeing the devastating effects on the healthcare system due to travel and gatherings over Thanksgiving, and many experts predict Christmas surges will be much worse because it will also include the NYE holiday.

Sending our teachers, students and staff back into the buildings is never 100% safe, but to send them back prior to January 11th feels reckless and unnecessary. I do not, in good faith, believe that those few days to go Hybrid vs Remote will make a huge negative impact. I do however, believe that staying Remote will help slow probable transmission significantly.

I have provided a link for you to read. [https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/ohio-education-association-urges-statewide-remote-learning-until-jan-](https://www.nbc4i.com/news/local-news/ohio-education-association-urges-statewide-remote-learning-until-jan-11)

[11/?fbclid=IwAR3Zo5kRV5OI4StVbiFxsUGf1_K6UciNeFEMP2FOnp0vNx4NTyIrlPTYlq7c](https://www.facebook.com/WorthingtonStudentsforRacialJustice/?fbclid=IwAR3Zo5kRV5OI4StVbiFxsUGf1_K6UciNeFEMP2FOnp0vNx4NTyIrlPTYlq7c)

Thank you for your time,
Rebecca Hermann

December 13, 2020

Dear Worthington Board of Education,

As Worthington students, we would like to show our support for Nikki Hudson, Charlie Wilson, Amy Lloyd, and their decision to acknowledge, not only student, but marginalized voices that have been long ignored. Their decision to remove SRO's from our school buildings was heavily informed by a centralized voice of students who are concerned with the safety of their peers and was not driven by personal political agendas, but rather by the extensive efforts of students.

We believe the removal of SRO's is an opportunity for the district to increase resources and funding towards preventative measures such as mental health resources to ensure safety. Our safety does not rely on an SRO in the building but rather stems from increased support through counseling and staff. In our district, the responsibility of scheduling, and admissions support is loaded on 10 counselors who oversee a total of 2,850 highschool students. This is not only unfair to our counseling staff but also a disservice to us as Worthington students. In moments of crisis, we do not need to be disciplined; we want to be understood.

We want to conclude by acknowledging community members' concerns about the removal of SROs and emphasizing the common goal we all share: the safety and protection of Worthington students. The longer the argument around the removal of SROs drags on, the longer the school board is prevented from taking action to protect the safety of students in Worthington schools. As the students who walk the halls of Worthington Schools, we firmly believe that our safety does not rely on an SRO in the building and that we should take this moment to expand on our resources for student health and safety. We are grateful to Nikki Hudson, Charlie Wilson, and Amy Lloyd for speaking out for our best interests.

Worthington Students for Racial Justice

"SROs have been proven to discipline black and brown students at a disproportionate rate feeding into the school to prison pipeline. I had severe mental health struggles and would never have sought out support through the school because it was so lacking. Worthington needs to do better" - Abby Sharkis, TWHS '20

"As a current class of 2021 student at Worthington Kilbourne, I support Nikki Hudson and the removal of SRO's in our schools. Understanding that we have the same goal of keeping our schools safe, the removal of SRO's gives us a new opportunity for real, positive change" - WKHS Student

"In my experience, the school resource officer scared students, escalated fights, and made me uncomfortable at school. I think the counseling staff should be able to de-escalate fights and provide support, so there is no need in my mind for SROs" - Allison Nicoll, WKHS '22

"We are the students of the school and this is what we believe is best for us" - Kennedy Macerollo, TWHS '22

"I feel so lucky to be a student in such an important time and with school board members who care so much about the students. I believe removing SROs and replacing them with an alternative is the best option" - Maia Lin, TWHS '21

"SROs statistically cause more unnecessary arrests and fear than they do help legitimate threats, and their employment is expensive— those resources could be better allocated into alternative safety programs in worthington schools (such as mental health resources, etc.)" - Sarah Ashworth, TWHS '21

"Removal of the school resource officer at Kilbourne is the best choice for students safety. The idea of someone in the building with access and weapons on their persons is not the right choice for our school" - Abigail Jump, WKHS '21

"SROs do not support the safety of all students, particularly Black individuals and those with disability, so as a district that has not always promoted equity within its systems and processes, it's essential to work proactively towards racial justice" - Daniel Levine, TWHS '19

"SROs don't make schools safer. The prevention of "violence" is through providing for people's needs, not with violence" - Current TWHS Student

"As a student at TWHS, I support the decision to remove SROs from our schools. Ever since middle school, I felt uncomfortable seeing an officer in school, as I was worried what they could do, and wondered why they were even there. The last few years, whenever I would walk by the central office and see the officer standing there, I felt really uncomfortable, especially knowing that other girls had felt the same way because of his presence. Being in a school environment, and having someone with a deadly weapon, who instills fear into others was not very helpful to me, and I assume not helpful to those who may be targeted because of their race. Why do we need to have this figure of hatred and "safety" in our schools, when they're not even protecting a lot of us. It's not too fair to the students color who actually are worried about what

this officer could do to them. Is your protection from “dangerous people” at school threatening your access to education... does it directly affect your mental health... or does the presence of an SRO mean that you have a greater chance of going to prison... I didn't think so. Reasoning for having SROs is selfish and reflects the people who have true influence in our community, please please please just think about other people for once!” - Gloria Chan, TWHS ‘22

“Thank you for helping to provide a better environment for all students—SROs present a danger, not a source of protection” - CHarlie Wallace, TWHS ‘21

“ACAB” - Anneliese Sinclair, TWHS ‘19

“The goal of SROs is to supposedly make our students feel safer, but if they are instead negatively impacting our education and comfort within our schools they need to be removed. Nikki Hudson and the decision to remove SROs from our schools have my complete support” - Ishana Baldaro, TWHS ‘22

“If you would like to make our community stronger and our students safer, invest in their voices and invest in their mental health. WE CAN AND SHOULD DO BETTER” - Magdalena Manrique, WKHS ‘21

“Cops have never and will never belong in schools. We will not be silenced any longer” - Audrey Yates, TWHS ‘23

“As a student in Worthington I feel that the decision the school board made was in the best interest of the students” - Hadley Kulina, TWHS ‘22

“They do nothing and they’ve arrested way too many black youth” - Ava Gallo, WKHS ‘23 “There’s really no need for them. Every time I see a fight happen at school the teachers are the ones to break it up. Also take into consideration how POC feel about this. I remember a black girl got called to the officers office to “talk” and turned out she was just being asked to homecoming by a boy, after she said “I thought you called me in here because I’m black”. This happened at Thomas” - Current TWHS Student

“We don’t need police. What we need is more resources for students” - Current TWHS Student

“Police have historically over policed brown and black communities and I feel police officers are more likely to escalate a harmless situation rather than protect students from an actual threat. I know personally seeing a cop car parked outside of the school regularly always makes me feel uncomfortable as I feel it shows a lack of trust in the students.

“I spend most of my time at the linworth alternative program and I have seen a

community oriented approach towards disciplin work. I believe the money spent on policing students would be better allocated towards the counseling budget” - Gabriel Cassell-Ramirez, TWHS ‘21

“Police officers should be helping keep communities safe and serving within the community. We need mental health specialist and counselors to replace SRO's” - Current TWHS Student

“I’ve never seen the SROs ever do anything at our school, that’s not on them it’s just that they’re not needed, but what is needed is more counselors. I’m a sophomore at Thomas and I’ve only met with my counselor once in both of my years, it shouldn’t be like that. I’ve tried to make appointments, but our counselors to student ratio is terrible, they’re working so hard and are so busy. I respect them so much, but they need more people and more students need more meetings” - Current TWHS Student

“There is no correlation between student safety and SRO’s. I have never sought out an SRO for safety concerns nor have I witnessed the SRO intervene and/or intervene when I thought student safety was being compromised. I am confident minority students are more likely to receive a referral to law enforcement or be subject to a school related arrest in comparison to white students when SRO’s are present” - Kate McClellan, TWHS ‘22

“SRO makes me feel less safe in school” - Bianca Kunz, TWHS ‘24

“As a black student with anxiety, having SROs in the building terrifies me and doesn't make me feel safer in any way. We don’t need them. I’ve never seen them do anything. They’re not breaking up fights, they're standing in the hallways having conversations with staff members and the few (usually white) students who feel comfortable enough to talk to them. Get them out of our schools” - Kylee Cannon, TWHS ‘22

“I think the removal of SROs is vital to make student particularly students of color and students with disabilities feel comfortable at school and I agree that an emphasis on mental health is more beneficial” - Stella Bixlar, WKHS ‘23

“i believe that the removal of sro’s from our schools will make it a safer environment for ALL students, especially those who feel threatened simply because of their presence” – Jay Fralic, TWHS ‘21

“I support Nikki Hudson & the other board members who supported the decision to remove SROs from our schools. The Worthington District must stay true in their promise to stay Anti-Racist and to make schools safer for students of color” - Melissa Yu, WKHS ‘21

“I go to WKHS and I do not think cops should be in our worthington schools” - Current WKHS Student

"We, the students of Worthington, would like to see change in order to meet the needs of each and every individual" - Jayden Doughty, WKHS '24

"I fully support this" - Tatum Synder, TWHS '21

"The funding and position of SROs should be diverted to professionals who do more than merely intimidate students, such as counselors or certified yet unarmed and safe methods/protection services" - Harini Subramanian, TWHS '22

"As a student in Worthington I feel that the decision the school board made was in the best interest of the students" - Hadley Kulina, TWHS '22

"I haven't felt safer ever since SRO's were put in schools, but instead I felt more worried, even though I knew I would never do something wrong" - Ethan Hasenfratz, TWHS '22

"I would like SROs to be removed from our Worthington schools as police have no place in our hallways. Police presence in schools is dangerous for students of color" - Current TWHS Student

"School SROs have never made me feel safe in school. Their presence has only ignited tension and stress. As a white student I feel uncomfortable walking past an armed SRO and I cannot imagine what our black peers feel like as they live in a world where police brutality can kill their mothers, fathers, and families. I beg you to consider the role of an SRO, what are they doing that cannot be done by another staff member? How likely are those situations to occur and how could you prevent them in the first place?" - Lydia Hoyt, WKHS '23

"I support the removal of SROs and the increase for counselors to better help students" - Current WKHS Student

"they are meant to intimidate people and that is not nice" - Ian Barrie, WKHS '23

"I believe the removal of SRO's is for the betterment of students' well-being including their mental health. To make students feel understood and safe, I believe it is important that SRO's are not apart of Worthington School" - Current WKHS Student

"I think that schools don't need resource officers" - Current WKHS Student

"SRO makes me feel less safe in school" - Bianca Kunz, TWHS '24

"Although I have had no experience with the officer, MANY students have voiced their discomfort. School is supposed to be a safe place, students should not feel threatened by police presence there" - Current TWHS Student

“Thank you for using your voice for those who cannot” - Ally Russell, WKHS ‘21
“I support the removal of the SRO from our schools so ALL students feel safe at their school” - Current WKHS Student

Rachel McCague 2023 Worthington Kilbourne
Isabel Henderson 2023 Thomas Worthington
Wonnice Kim 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Advithi Jataprolu Worthington Kilbourne
Jenna Reinhart 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Elijah Beard 2021 Thomas Worthington
Gwen Jonard 2021 Thomas Worthington
Erin Oberle 2022 Thomas Worthington
Lucca Hasenfratz 2023 Thomas Worthington
Paige Stephens 2021 Thomas Worthington
Katelyn Burns 2021 Thomas Worthington
Nat Harper 2022 Thomas Worthington
Mallory Hartsell 2020 Thomas Worthington
Izzy Thomas 2021 Thomas Worthington
Shea Versele 2022 Worthington Kilbourne
Katie Browning 2023 Thomas Worthington
Genevieve Pappalardo 2023 Thomas Worthington
Barbara S 2016 Worthington Kilbourne
Kaylah Cloud 2022 Thomas Worthington
Julia Geiger 2018 Thomas Worthington
Grace Matthews 2021 Thomas Worthington
Savita Jani 2024 Worthington Kilbourne
Lauren Fedorko 2024 Thomas Worthington
Charlotte Helm 2023 Thomas Worthington
Tessa Bolon 2015 Worthington Kilbourne
Kennedy Cardenas 2019 Thomas Worthington
Alex 2023 Worthington Kilbourne
Rowen Raynes 2023 Thomas Worthington
Grace Edgerton 2019 Thomas Worthington
Madeline Cherri, 2021 Thomas Worthington
Samy Mendez 2022 Worthington Kilbourne
Tatiana Najera 2024 Worthington Kilbourne
Mary Smith 2023 Thomas Worthington
Phoebe Saunders 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Fiona Saunders 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Lilly McAdams 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Melina Balch 2021 Thomas Worthington
Kaylah Burns 2021 Thomas Worthington
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Sanju Nandimalla 2022 Worthington Kilbourne

Lilly Matthews 2021 Thomas Worthington
Samuel-David Adeyemi 2021 Thomas Worthington
Sasha Estice 2020 Worthington Kilbourne
Mira Bixler 2024 Worthington Kilbourne
Josh Hickman 2022 Thomas Worthington
Louis Weiss 2023 Thomas Worthington
Kate Wiseloge 2023 Thomas Worthington
Jhasmin Glass 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Wesley Utsler 2018 Thomas Worthington
Zane Ryan-Hart Thomas Worthington
Lily Houser C/O 2021 Thomas Worthington
Grace Pflaum 2022 Thomas Worthington
Megan Frey 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Bailey Simmons 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Alexa Payne 2017 Worthington Kilbourne
Erika McCague 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Hannah Welch 2021 Thomas Worthington
Maggie 2021 Thomas Worthington
Madison Ashley 2022 Thomas Worthington
Delaney Blair 2023 Thomas Worthington
Lauren Richner 2021 Worthington Kilbourne
Jo Suddendorf 2022 Thomas Worthington
Ricky Foley Thomas Worthington
Sierra Haurani 2022 Worthington Kilbourne
Lauren Frenz 2022 Thomas Worthington
Evelyn Bomsta 2022 Worthington Kilbourne

December 13, 2020 Dear Worthington Board of Education,

As alumni of Worthington City Schools, we want to express our support for the district's decision to end its contracts with School Resource Officers. We also want to express our gratitude for Nikki Hudson, as well as Amy Lloyd and Charlie Willson, who listened to and supported students and community members by voting "yes" on this decision.

In the past few months, the community has presented the School Board with detailed research and data demonstrating why this is the right decision. However, given that debates are continuing, we would like to highlight some key points below.

We support the decision to remove SROs because we value the health and safety of all students in the district, including those from marginalized communities. According to Assistant Superintendent Randy Banks and principals Aric Thomas and Pete Scully, SROs spend 5% of their time on "mental health assistance" and 10% of their time on "student counseling and mentorship." Yet SROs are trained to enforce the law, not to meet the

developmental health needs of children and young adults. By criminalizing children, they can contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline. During the 2018-2019 school year, SROs filed thirty charges against Worthington students. Moreover, in instances like a school shooting that might seem to require law enforcement, SROs do not actually protect students successfully.

Therefore, the SRO program must be replaced with a program that better facilitates the mental health and well-being of students. The approximately \$100,000 that the district currently spends on SROs can be better spent on mental health initiatives that can actually keep students safe. Such initiatives might include training teachers and administrators in trauma-informed and restorative approaches to managing student behavior or hiring staff with such training; research shows that this approach is better for student safety.

Finally, for marginalized communities in Worthington and Columbus, law enforcement represents intimidation rather than protection. Research shows that SROs target, harass, and criminalize Black and other students of color, students with disabilities, LGBTQ students, and female students. Through letters, protest speeches, and a virtual teach-in this past summer, Worthington students have spoken out about why SROs are not beneficial to them. Only 43% of Black residents in Columbus believe police make decisions that are good for all residents, compared with 70% of white residents. In the last 4 years, Black Columbus residents such as Henry Green (age 23, killed June 2016), Tyre King (age 13, killed September 2016), Julius Tate Jr. (age 16, killed December 2018), and Casey Goodson Jr. (age 23, killed December 4, 2020) have been killed at the hands of local law enforcement.

We thank Nikki Hudson for taking leadership on this SRO issue and standing up for what is right. When students and community members were advocating for the removal of SROs, particularly those from marginalized communities, she listened to and was willing to learn from their concerns. We fully support the School Board's decision to end SRO contracts and appreciate those who voted "yes" for representing those whose voices are too often unheard. Some alumni submitted statements, listed below.

The full list of signatures is on the following pages.

Dean Orloff, TWHS '20: I hope to continue this safe, student-driven, and community-oriented policy of keeping SRO's out of our schools.

Chloe Patronskey, TWHS '19: I never felt unsafe in my school until the SROs were brought in. They impose a risk to students of color and disabled students every single day.

Mollie Gladden, TWHS '18: Nikki Hudson, amongst other school board members, has shown leadership through putting students first. Marginalized voices matter too, and the

actual safety of students must be put before the imagined safety that SROs don't provide.

Olivia Martin, WKHS '19: The school board is obligated to do what will be best for the students in the district. Failure to remove resource officers would be a failure to acknowledge the needs and wellbeing of students in Worthington.

J. Husvar, TWHS '20: Multiple times I watched SROs unnecessarily intimidate and harass students, make jokes about police brutality, and generally behave aggressively towards students who weren't doing anything wrong. SROs are inappropriate and not conducive to a safe and healthy school environment. They perpetuate fear only.

Allison O'Reilly, WKHS '19: Let's put an end to discrimination together Khari Lindsay, WKHS '16: Worthington didn't have one but to have Thomas have one and not Worthington is lowkey racist

Audrey Taylor, TWHS '20: The SROs at Thomas Worthington inflicted more harm than help in the school. Their presence can be intimidating and threatening to a lot of students.

Linda Karr, WKHS: I support this vote based on national research and what I believe is the best decision going forward for the Worthington community.

Alexa R. Coe, TWHS '18: Every encounter I've had with an SRO in school was never a comfortable encounter. Having someone in the school with a gun walking around with no real certification to actually assist anyone in the school. It's pointless and a waste of money! Make your students feel comfortable to come to school.

Kristin Otterbacher Davis, TWHS 1988: I feel it is time to support our minority students. They need to feel safe. I also think that putting money toward mental health is better spent.

Reid Wollett, TWHS '17: I support the phasing out of SRO's and the allocation of resources for mental health and marginalized students. Stop criminalizing children.

Anonymous, TWHS '17: SROs, according to OSROA, are supposed to be a part of the school community and share their expertise. In my 4 years at TWHS, not much was done by SRO to inform the student population on emotional health and physical safety. If funds and efforts were focused on tackling issues head on, rather than hire more SROs, students may feel safer. Intimidation isn't a learning technique and students do not need to be criminalized.

Issaga Bah, TWHS '16: Yes

Ajha Williams, WKHS '13: A C A B. REMOVE THEM. SPEND THE MONEY ON SOMETHING ✨IMPORTANT✨

Elisa H. Lide, TWHS '14: I was personally profiled, targeted, and criminalized by your school system. You charged me with a FELONY when I was SIXTEEN. I was a child and I didn't even know what that truly meant and my school, my safe place, sent me right on the school to prison pipeline. F--- your system and your SROs and your Deans and your Principals and your Superintendents. I needed the compassion and guidance a white student from a pta family would have received but instead I, as a CHILD, had to literally fight for my freedom and future against your suits and system. Y'all need to change. Start by removing the oppressive SROs you waste tax dollars on, and start spending that money on mental health initiatives, diversity competency training, and hiring less racist staff.

Dean Orloff Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2020 Eaman Abay Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Chloe Patrosky Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Jamie Reed Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Rachel Rinaldi Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Abbie Miller Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Mollie Gladden Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Amy Clapper Thomas Worthington High School 2008 Olivia Martin Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Rosa Spurgeon Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Alfredo Bravo Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Olivia murray Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Angie Burdine Thomas Worthington High School 2019 J. Husvar Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Allison O'Reilly Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Jackson Kessler Worthington Kilbourne High School 2020 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Haven Tattersall Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Caitlin Cronin Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Grace Ellis Worthington Kilbourne High School 2013 Gene Kim Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Aarthi Kaviyarasu Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Caroline Hill Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Regan Macerollo Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Alexandra Ehlers Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Madeline Zawada Worthington Kilbourne High School 2020 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Mallory Hartsell Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Mason Althouse Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2016 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Rafael Manrique Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Bryanne Bornstein Thomas Worthington High School 1999 Audrey Monroe Thomas Worthington High School 2001 Lily Fang Worthington Kilbourne High School 2014 Khari Lindsay Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Audrey Taylor Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Your first & last name High School (or home high school) from which you graduated Year of Graduation Abby Moulton Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Sabrina Ramsay Thomas

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2020 Maggie Rice Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Chad Dudash Worthington
Kilbourne High School 2018 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Jade B
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Kinzer Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Amelia Johnson Worthington Kilbourne
High School 2016 Madison Angione Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Eleanor
Savors Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Kailyn Turner Worthington Kilbourne
High School 2017 J.D. Mooney Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Juliana Pascoe
Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Gordan Liu Worthington Kilbourne High School
2019 Michael Barone Worthington Kilbourne High School 2020 Marina Hanna Thomas
Worthington High School 2020 Marina Hanna Thomas Worthington High School 2020
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High School 2020 Elaine Miller Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Johanna Egan
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Sophia Stockhausen Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Allison (Clark) DeSantis
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2017 Sean Carey Thomas Worthington High School 2020 regan jones Thomas
Worthington High School 2020 Reilly Ford Thomas Worthington High School 2019
Audrey Matthews Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Abigail Hartsell Thomas
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Renna Pappalardo Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Kyler Block Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Mary Ritchey Thomas Worthington High School 2012 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Savannah Kruse Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Avery Roe Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Payton McClintock Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Madison Price Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Regan Macerollo Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Juliana Louisin Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Your first & last name High School (or home high school) from which you graduated Year of Graduation Aaron Chavis Worthington Kilbourne High School 2018 Megan Freeman Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Ann's Gerber Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Meryl Haque Worthington Kilbourne High School 2014 Kai Britz Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Emma Potter Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Greg Robards Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Riley Frankhouser Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Anna Stevenson Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Elizabeth Warner Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Emily Dodd Worthington Kilbourne High School 2015 Sonia Kshatri Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Celina Nader Worthington Kilbourne High School 2012 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2016 Talia Scurlock Worthington Kilbourne High School 2008 Sophia Decker Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Chloe Engel Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Meredith Gnezda Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Julia Orloff Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2017 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Jon T Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Ben Cooper Thomas Worthington High School 2004 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2017 Olivia Jump Worthington Kilbourne High School 2020 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Layne Keegan Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Chloe Beck Thomas Worthington High School 2014 Issaga Bah Thomas Worthington High School 2016 Deja Thomas - bass Worthington Kilbourne High School 2016 Anonymous Worthington Kilbourne High School 2020 Kelly Chadwell Thomas Worthington High School 2014 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Claire Parker Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Ranyah Chahine Worthington Kilbourne High School 2018 Sofia Bonilla Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Ajha Williams Worthington Kilbourne High School 2013 Your first & last name High School (or home high school) from which you graduated Year of Graduation Maxwell Shafran Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Collin Foust Thomas Worthington High School 5005 Lila Baumann Thomas Worthington High School 2016 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2009 Gayathri Mudigonda Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Arthur Vidmar Thomas Worthington High School 2014 Anna Ezell Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Amanda Ingram Altfater Worthington Kilbourne High

School 2004 Avery Seevers Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Haley Dowdy Thomas Worthington High School 2020 Eamon Donovan Thomas Worthington High School 2005 Micah Barry Thomas Worthington High School 2005 Alessa Rosa Worthington Kilbourne High School 2012 Angela Jordan Thomas Worthington High School 1995 Rebecca Pollard Thomas Worthington High School 2000 Alivia Clark Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Rachel Kneessi Thomas Worthington High School 2015 Tulia Spurgeon Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Meenakshi Jani Worthington Kilbourne High School 2019 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Kyle Strickland Worthington Kilbourne High School 2009 Mark Caral Thomas Worthington High School 2005 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2015 Grace Edgerton Thomas Worthington High School 2019 Anonymous Thomas Worthington High School 2018 Elisa H. Lide Thomas Worthington High School 2014

Hello,

I am writing to you today to implore you to please send all the students back to school starting January 4th. They all need to be in school K-12. There is no time to waste. They've had less than 20 in person days this year and it's unacceptable. We are no longer deemed a purple county, Our teacher shortage issues should be better considering schools been remote for several weeks. Many districts are choosing to send their children back prior to the holiday break because they recognize the need for in person learning and the emotional Toll It is taking on our youth. This includes districts that reside within Franklin County. Please note, Hilliard and Westerville both voted to send their kids back to Hybrid before break.

Children tend to be highly social individuals and need interactions with their peers. I've seen well adjust kids who were happy, straight A students falter emotionally this year. Please do everything possible to help these students get back to normal. Please also consider the stress remote learning takes on children that have 504's and IEP's. To be able to meet their learning needs many of these students NEED to be in the classroom.

Finally our student athletes need to have a season. Other districts are going outside of the OCC to compete. Let's think outside of the box Worthington. Private sports are being played with little issue. There isn't a reason we can't figure this out. Many HS students need athletics to assist with college scholarships.

Monica Kinderknecht
7982 Severhill Court
Dublin, OH 43016

To Worthington School Board,

I wanted to take this time to say that I support Nikki Hudson. I support the decision to remove SRO's from Worthington schools. I do not believe having police in our schools does anything other than add brute force. What is actually needed are more mental health resources. More diversity training. More resources for struggling parents.

I also am shocked that a new anonymous group called "OneWorthington" has been created simply, it seems, to solicit donations for an attempted power grab of the school board. The people behind "OneWorthington" don't seem to have any ideas other than SRO's must be in schools to prevent or stop school shootings. Which research tells us is not the case. And they apparently do not care about anyone else's feelings. This group needs to be exposed.

Thank You,
Lauren Durant
433 Schrock Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085

I would like my following thoughts and concerns to be read at tonight's meeting. I would also like a response to my questions and concerns from one or all of the board members.

10 years ago, my family made the decision to move from Columbus City Schools to a better school district. I did a lot of research into the area school districts to see what would be the best fit for our 3 children. After a lot of conversations, research, and school visits, we made the decision to find a home in the Worthington School District. I have never regretted that decision until this year. I have never been so embarrassed to be a part of a school district that says they are all about our kids and families but doesn't appear to be showing it. You say you are leaders in education but I am beginning to lose trust and confidence in this leadership.

When the pandemic began, I preached patience and grace to our kids. We've never been in this situation. We don't know the extent of the virus. I trusted our leadership to do what was best in all areas - local, state, and federal. So, while the end of the school year in the Spring was not ideal, I trusted that our school district was doing all it could. I believed you when you said you were coming up with a plan for the Fall. As the 1st day of school got closer and closer, my confidence began to waver. It seemed as though a lot of in-decision and knee-jerk reactions began to happen. All summer we were told if we're this color we're doing this. If we're this color we're doing that. We were given a timetable, but like so many things, it kept changing.

Despite my concerns, I still wanted to give our leadership the benefit of the doubt, and I hoped reason and common sense would prevail. It did not. We were one of the first, if not first districts to cancel sports. Then we got sports back but we were still not going

to be in-person school. WHY?!?!? That makes no sense. We were one of the first, if not first to go to remote only. WHY?!?!? Because we boxed ourselves in and said we were following the recommendation of the City of Columbus. Really?? We finally got our children back in school and once again, we were one of the first, if not the first to go back to remote only. And now while most schools are making adjustments and being flexible on some things, here Worthington School District sits, as one of the only ones remaining in remote only. Not only is Worthington School District not leading, we're also not following other school districts. We're just being. That is not why our family moved to Worthington - to just get by, to just be. Our goal should not be to just be better than the Columbus School District. If we're not careful, we'll become Columbus City School District. Is that what you want?

I too am in a place of leadership, where I've had to make decisions involving children and their families when it comes to how to deal with COVID. So I do understand and respect that it is not as easy to make these decisions and I'm sure you have tried to do your best. For our family, it comes down to this is not working and something needs to change. I'm pleading and begging you not to wait until January 3rd to figure out what kind of school district we're going to be in 2021. I'm pleading and begging you to have a plan for this next Semester, for our Seniors & graduation, and for all of the activities and events we've come to expect and enjoy in Worthington. There needs to be a best case scenario, a worst case scenario, and several contingency plans for what we can expect in the 2nd half of this school year. And then there needs to be full disclosure of those plans.

If we can help in any way, our family is ready to do what is necessary to get Worthington School District back as one of the best school districts in the State. Despite how harsh and angry my concerns and comments are above, we do continue to pray for our leadership and school district and we want to support it however we can.

Sincerely,

A Frustrated, Disappointed, Angry, Sad Worthington Family

Carrie Wiley
2066 Sutter Pkwy
Dublin, OH 43016

Noah - Senior; Jared - Junior; Hannah- 8th grader

Worthington Racial Justice Organizing
worthingtonrjo@gmail.com

December 13, 2020

Worthington Board of Education
Worthington Education Center
200 East Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
wscomms@wscloud.org

President Nikki Hudson and Esteemed Members of the Board of Education:

We write today to thank the Worthington School Board for listening to the movement led by students and recent alumni and voting to remove the School Resource Officers (SROs) from Worthington's high schools. Specifically, we thank School Board president Nikki Hudson and members Charlie Wilson and Amy Lloyd for their votes to remove SROs from TWHS and WKHS. By voting to remove SROs from our schools, the school board is affirming their stated commitment to make Worthington Schools an antiracist school district as outlined in the resolution titled "Resolution Affirming our Commitment to Be an Antiracist School District and Our Commitment to Social Justice," passed on June 22, 2020. This action also illustrates that these individual school board members are committed to making our schools a safe space for all Worthington students.

While SROs first entered schools in the 1950s in an effort to curb gun violence in schools in Flint, Michigan, and to address racial tension in the South, their roles have evolved in a reactionary manner over the years (Coon & Travis, 2012; Ryan et al, 2018). The role of SROs then shifted to addressing drugs in schools nation-wide (Price, 2009, Ryan et. al, 2018). SROs then became widespread in the early 2000s due to a confluence of three factors, the federal COPS program, providing funding for police in schools, the growing visibility of school shootings following the 1999 Columbine shooting, and a nation-wide "tough on juvenile crime" movement (Thurau & Wald, 2010). In the past two decades, the role of SROs have expanded in many schools, with officers engaged in activities well beyond the role of traditional police and is now one of the areas of policing that is growing fastest (Ryan et al., 2018). In Worthington, we are all concerned about the possibility of a shooting in one of our schools, and we are grateful that Nikki Hudson, Charlie Wilson, and Amy Lloyd engaged science on this subject. There is simply no scientific evidence that SROs prevent shootings (DOJ, 2013).

We applaud these BOE members for making a data informed decision about the role that SROs play in our schools, specifically concerning Black and other students of color, students with disabilities, LGBTQ students, and our female students (Snapp et al., 2015; Stinson & Watkins, 2014; Merkwae, 2015). The discussion between our high school principals and the School Board at the July 27th BOE meeting make clear that our district's "lack of precision or clear policy guidelines for defining" our SRO's roles was consistent with the findings of studies highlighting the danger these officers can pose to our students without

clearly defined roles (Ryan et. al. 2018, pg. 188; Thureau & Wald, 2010). Further, the use of SROs for “mental health assistance,” as outlined in the presentation to the BOE from Randy Banks and principals Aric Thomas and Pete Scully is outside of the scope of law enforcement as law enforcement are not trained social workers (Ryan et al., 2018). In fact, Ohio is one of many states without training standards for SROs, and the [Ohio Schools Resource Officers Association](#) does not even include juvenile justice training in their recommended curriculum (Ryan et al., 2018).

SROs have been shown to increase the school to prison pipeline (Ryan et al., 2018). However, studies show that this is in fact due to a growing reliance on SROs for managing student behavior because schools are failing to properly train teachers in trauma informed and restorative approaches to managing student behavior (Ryan et al., 2018). The results of misbehavior in high schools across America today can mean a criminal record for many students, particularly low income minority students (Ryan et al., 2018).

We know that removing SROs makes our schools and communities safer. As our students have said in the letter Worthington for Black Lives, SROs do not save lives from school shootings, either as a deterrent effect or by direct action (DOJ, 2013). Instead, they increase rates of arrest for minor offenses and harassment of marginalized students, including not only Black students and other students of color, but disabled students, LGBTQ students, and girls and women (Merkwae, 2015; Snapp et al., 2015; Stinson & Watkins, 2014).

Board of Education President Nikki Hudson and members Charlie Wilson and Amy Lloyd have made both a racially just and fiscally responsible decision in canceling these contracts to enable district leaders to assess the needs these SROs were really filling and identifying the proper professionals to fill these roles.

In keeping with the original demands of the Worthington for Black Lives letter, we look forward to a productive conversation about expanding mental health resources and ensuring that all staff who interact with students are trained in conflict resolution, trauma-informed counseling techniques, and restorative practices.

Signed,

Glennon Sweeney, 1977 Sawbury Blvd, 43235, Worthington School District Resident & Alumna

Tricia Jones Narayanabhata, 5704 Foster Ave, 43085, Worthington School District Resident & Alumna

Jennifer Perge, 170 Heischman Ave., Worthington School District Resident

Lisa Cave, 629 Sanbridge Circle West, Worthington School District Resident

Meg Kane, 167 Abbot Avenue , Worthington School District Resident, Thank you for keeping all kids safe in schools by observing decades of evidence showing SROs do not enhance safety or stop shootings but do contribute to school to prison pipelines.

Pranav Jani, 1224 Drumbarton Court, 43235, Worthington School District Resident, The school board made a decision in line with the current movement to transform our society's relationship to police. As a racial justice activist and a person of color, I hope that the board remains steadfast despite the backlash.

Erica Graff, 5773 Indianola Ave., 43085, Worthington School District Resident, Thank you for listening to the voices that have so often been unheard!

Lyndsey Dudley, 6980 Rieber Street, 43085, Worthington School District Resident

Lauren Durant, 433 Schrock Road, Worthington School District Resident

Jennifer Simcic, 6691 Stenten St., Worthington School District Resident, Thank you for standing up for racial justice.

Cristina de los Santos, Worthington School District Resident

Dalton LaPene, 249 East Lincoln Avenue, Worthington School District Resident

Susan Gladden, 6055 Flora Villa Dr, Worthington School District Resident, I don't believe we can be an anti-racist school district and have police in the schools. SRO's make it a less safe space for BIPOC students.

Steven Ciciora, 167 Abbot Ave, Worthington School District Resident

John Jones, 5716 Foster Ave, Worthington School District Resident, Listen to our students. Listen with your hearts. Please.

Matt Schullek, 515 E. Stafford Ave., Worthington School District Resident

Erin Brown, 345 Greenglade Ave, Worthington School District Resident

Elyce Cucksey, 150 Greenglade Ave, Worthington School District Resident

Lesley Saeed, 132 Northigh Dr. Worthington , Worthington School District Resident, I strongly support removal of SROs and moving those funds to hiring specialists trained to identify and intervene with students at risk of causing violence.

Kimberly Jordan, 716 Greenwich St, Worthington School District Resident, I fully support the Board's actions to remove SROs from our schools.

Ann Shank, 488 Meadoway Park, Worthington School District Resident

Daniel Bunn, 540 Colonial Ave, Worthington School District Resident

Beth Smith, Worthington School District Resident

Rachael Smith, 100 Howard Avenue , Worthington School District Resident

Kristen Buss, 1177 MacGregor West Ave, 43085, Worthington School District Resident, The Worthington School Board's decision to remove SRO's this summer came at the behest of students and recent alums, supported by family and community members and driven by strong research and SROs do not support safety in schools. Additionally, SROs increase the likelihood of an unsafe environment for marginalized populations. This is well documented. I urge the School Board to stand by their decision and their community in maintaining this decision.

Tiffany McCoy, 5704 Indianola , Worthington School District Resident
Craig Patronskey , 5704 Indianola , Worthington School District Resident
Mark Caral, 898 Brockwell Dr, 43081, Worthington School District Resident, Alumnus of TWHS
Susan Roscigno, 6866 McGreegor St, Worthington School District Resident
Jamie Vasileff, 8107 Molianna Ct, Worthington School District Resident
Stuart Lightfoot, Worthington, OH, Worthington School District Resident
Maria Ramirez , 5731 Andover St., Worthington School District Resident
Amy Sumner, 870 Oxford Street, Worthington School District Resident
Srinivas Narayanabhatta, 5704 Foster Ave, Worthington School District Resident, I want my young children to go to a high school one day that is not policed but is made safe by educators and administrators empowered to do their jobs.
Christy Bowen, 860 Oxford St. 43085, Worthington School District Resident, Alum TWHS '97
Emily Chalfant, 440 Loveman Ave, Worthington, Worthington School District Resident, Thank you for your willingness to make hard decisions!
Sarah M Maclean, 8746 Chrisey Ct, Powell, OH 43065, Worthington School District Resident
Cate Taylor, 6860 Alloway St E, Worthington School District Resident
Mike Taylor, 6860 Alloway St E, Worthington School District Resident
Marcela Estevez, 7753 Hathaway Park Ct, 43016, Worthington School District Resident
Sarah Kuhnell, 359 Pinney Dr, Worthington School District Resident
Michael Kuhnell , 359 Pinney Dr, Worthington School District Resident
Jen Paine, Jenpaine@hotmail.com, Worthington School District Resident
Vanessa Potter, 349 pinney dr, Worthington School District Resident
Betsy Carleton, Worthington School District Resident
Shaun Hamm , 341 Pinney Dr., Worthington School District Resident
Audrey MacComer , 5603 Indianola Ave , Worthington School District Resident, I'm a Worthington educator
Stacy Brannan-Smith , 562 Kenbrook Dr., 43085, Worthington School District Resident
April Schwarzwald, 445 Colonial Ave., 43085, Worthington School District Resident
Matt Lees, 6587 Masefield St. 43085, Worthington School District Resident
Monica Peters, 441 Blandings Ct, Worthington School District Resident
Kerry Rudy, 279 Caren Ave, Worthington, Worthington School District Resident

Julie McCord, 446 Colonial Ave, 43085, Worthington School District Resident, I fully support the removal of the SROs from school, as supported by research. SROs do not make our schools safer.

Kathryn Campbell-Kibler, 175 East Selby Blvd, Worthington School District Resident, I have two children in Worthington schools.

Charlotte Weber, 532 Colonial Avenue, Worthington School District Resident

Bronwynn Hopton, 118 W Granville Rd, Worthington School District Resident

Sarah Denny, 182 East New England Ave , Worthington School District Resident, So proud of our Board and District Leadership for focusing on these critical issues!

Carrie Settle, 4771 Larwell Drive, Parent of children who attend Worthington Schools, My children attend Worthington Schools

Carter Settle, 422 Highgate avenue , Worthington School District Resident

Katie Weyrauch, 308 Loveman Ave. , Worthington School District Resident, I am in support of the board's decision to end the SRO contact. Thank you for standing up for students of color and their experiences.

Kara Reuter, 8287 Waco Ln., Worthington School District Resident

Robin Wigney, 556 High St, Worthington School District Resident, More compassion and intervention and counseling. Put the funding into that rather than police force on campuses.

Kate Williams, 8015 Flint Road, Worthington School District Resident

Wentong Lin, 8015 Flint Road, 43235, Worthington School District Resident

Donald Ritchey, 8199 Bertson Pl, 43235, Worthington School District Resident

Jill Ritchey, 8199 Bertson Pl, 43235, Worthington School District Resident

Donnie Austin, 488 Oxford Court, 43085, Worthington School District Resident, Our board and administration have had a challenging year during a very difficult time. I'd like to thank Ms. Hudson and the board members who have considered the challenges facing ALL of the students in our district and making decisions that would bring the greatest benefit to all of our students collectively. Ms. Hudson has taken into consideration what some of our more vulnerable populations, specifically people of color, face day to day and wants to bring them a more positive and safer education here in Worthington. I applaud her for her efforts.

Kathy Milette, 251 Sinsbury Drive N, Worthington School District Resident

Matthew Mowry, 6773 Bowerman Ct., Worthington School District Resident

Beth Kowalczyk, 203 West Selby Blvd, Worthington School District Resident, Parent

Elizabeth Tullis, 201 E Stafford Ave , Worthington School District Resident

Shawna Moraille, 385 Riley Ave, Worthington School District Resident, Removing SROs was an informed, data driven decision. Thank you Nikki Hudson and the other BOE leaders for making this tough decision.

Annette Witherspoon , 487 Haymore Ave North , Worthington School District Resident

Alyssa Harris, 50 West Stafford Avenue, Worthington School District Resident

Ray Lees, 6587 Masefield St. , Worthington School District Resident

Rebecca Billingslea , 7747 Stoneford Dr , Worthington School District Resident

Paisha Thomas , 93 E Selby Blvd , Worthington School District Resident, In reality, taxpayers do not need to fund excessive policing. Black students are disproportionately affected by the presence of police in schools, resulting in them becoming part of the school to prison pipeline which feeds the prison industrial complex. I encourage the school system to look for alternative ways to provide security in our buildings. Additionally, during this pandemic, it is not necessary to fund police staff in buildings when our children should be in distance learning and virtual classrooms to avoid spreading COVID-19. I think that the people who are fighting to bring back SRO's are prioritizing the wrong thing in this current climate. It sends a message - given that they have mentioned race - that they are projecting racism from within themselves.

Toni Clark, 847 Morning St, Worthington School District Resident

Elizabeth McClellan , 695 Hartford , Worthington School District Resident, I would like to thank Nikki Hudson, Charlie Wilson and Amy Lloyd of the Worthington School Board for listening to the often unsolicited and unheard voices of the students. Once again, this action also illustrates that these individual school board members are committed to making our schools a safe space for ALL Worthington students. Our community needs to work to ensure each and every student feels safe. Any community member or group not engaging in productive conversations, in reference to this topic, should reconsider how their actions and words impact our children. Our children are watching. How does one teach our children the attributes of reflection, listening, kindness & acceptance when they witness community members having reactions, actions, and words that intimidate. Worthington is a community that should ensure students feel empowered to speak up and advocate for themselves and others when anyone's safety or security is threatened. We need to listen, reflect, and be comfortable with the uncomfortable conversations or information that runs counter to your preconceived notions. In order to be one Worthington, any and all actions counter to what's best for ALL students needs to be reevaluated

Michael Featherstone , 152 Heischman Ave, Worthington School District Resident

Amy Featherstone , 152 Heischman Ave, Worthington School District Resident

Tricia Lauducci, 791 Morning St, Worthington School District Resident

Sarah Mullen, 655 Hartford Street, Worthington , Worthington School District Resident

Nicole Roedif, 395 Riley ave, Worthington School District Resident
Allan Showalter , 596 Whitney Ave, Worthington School District Resident
Jen Ferguson, 176 Loveman Ave , Worthington School District Resident
Daniel Showalter, 596 Whitney Avenue , Worthington School District Resident
Jordan Main, 5585 Greenwich St., Worthington School District Resident
Elizabeth Norton, 493 Blandings Ct, Worthington School District Resident
Dr. & Mrs. Karl & Jessica Haglund, 687 Hartford Street, Worthington School District Resident, We support the complete removal of SROs from the school district. Countless studies have shown SROs don't work. We'd rather the funds go to hiring/training mental health professionals &/or social workers. Thank you.
Tiffany Horton, 6632 Devonhill Rd Columbus, Worthington School District Resident, I have two children of color within Worthington City Schools and I support the removal of SROs.
Richard Moraille, 385 Riley, Worthington School District Resident
Brandy Brannon, 536 meadoway park, Worthington School District Resident
Merydith Greene, 784 Morning Street, Worthington School District Resident
Bob Greene, 784 Morning Street, Worthington School District Resident
Megan Cavanaugh, 488 Oxford Court, 43085, Worthington School District Resident
Melissa Skilliter, 355 Greenglade Ave, Worthington School District Resident
Riann taylor, 6510 evening street, Worthington School District Resident
Patrick Skilliter, 355 Greenglade Ave, Worthington School District Resident
Anna Marty Schraff, 376 Colonial Ave, 43085, Worthington School District Resident
Chris Schraff, 376 Colonial Ave, 43085, Worthington School District Resident
Sarah Niese, 384 Colonial ave, Worthington School District Resident
Lyndsay Greer, 356 Pingree Dr, Worthington, Worthington School District Resident, Thank you for voting to remove SROs from schools, and for your commitment to social justice.
Allison Chapman, 144 E Dublin Granville Rd, Worthington School District Resident
Ava Chapman , 144 E Dublin Granville Rd, Worthington School District Resident
John W. Chapman, 144 E Dublin Granville Road, Worthington School District Resident
AJ Perry, 5609 Selby Ct, Worthington School District Resident
Ser Jackson, 323 E Dublin Granville Rd, Worthington School District Resident
Cari Pyles, 332 Park Boulevard , Worthington School District Resident
Elizabeth Dekker, 275 E North st, Worthington School District Resident

Beth Knight Mirmelstein, 1319 Lakeside Way, Worthington School District Resident

Carrie Kissel, 203 W New England Ave, 43085, Worthington School District Resident

David Mortman , 175 E Selby Blvd, 43085, Worthington School District Resident

Lynsey Pearson, 378 Kenbrook Dr, Worthington School District Resident

Mytheli Sreenivas, 1224 Drumbarton Court, 43235, Worthington School District Resident

Matthew Hoyt, 1300 Donahey Street, 43235, Worthington School District Resident

Karin Hoyt, 1300 Donahey Street, 43235, Worthington School District Resident

Chrissy Bailey , 627 S Selby Blvd , Worthington School District Resident

Courtney Cooke, 361 Pingree Drive , Worthington School District Resident

David Hudson, 250 E South St, Worthington School District Resident, Thank you for
working to make Worthington schools great for all of our students

Robin Freeman , 340 Pingree dr , Worthington School District Resident

Linh Rhea, 985 Bluffpoint Dr., Worthington School District Resident

Rachael Dorothy, 91 East Selby Blvd, Worthington School District Resident

Kate Djupe, 461 E Clearview Avenue, Worthington School District Resident

Paul Djupe, 461 E Clearview Avenue, Worthington School District Resident

Jen Ferguson, 176 Loveman Ave , Worthington School District Resident

Kelly McConaughy , , Worthington School District Resident

Chad Owens, 48 W. South St. , Worthington School District Resident, In order to elevate the
level of service of all police departments the sense of entitlement needs to be
addressed. One of many effective ways to address the issue is thru defunding

Marla Williams, 1117 Limberlost Ct, 43235, Worthington School District Resident, Thank
you for supporting the removal of the SRO in Worthington and making ALL children
and families feel safe.

Benjamin Williams, 1117 Limberlost Ct, 43235, Worthington School District Resident

Cate Taylor, 6860 Alloway St E, Worthington School District Resident

Kate Wright, 445 Park Overlook Dr, Worthington School District Resident, TWHS grad here.
I approve of the BoE's resolution to remove SROs.

Tyler Moore, 5823 N High St, Worthington School District Resident

Rachel Kraut , 6812 Bowerman St West , Worthington School District Resident

Lorraine Robinson, 195 E Dublin Granville Rd, Worthington School District Resident

Stephanie Harless, 6895 Haymore Ave W, Worthington School District Resident, Thank you
to all school board members who took the time to listen, consider, and read the
research on the negative impact of SROs, especially on students of color. While this

is an uncomfortable change for some in this community, it will in time reveal itself to be the correct decision for our district and students.

Ashley Murichu, 1803 Hightower drive, Columbus , Worthington School District Resident

Laurie Bilovesky, 1509 Briar Meadow Dr, 43235, Worthington School District Resident

Suzann VanNasdale, 1195 Leicester Pl, Worthington School District Resident, Police do not belong in schools. Invest our tax money in appropriate supports for our Black and Brown students and our special needs students. Invest our tax money in social workers to support our students and teachers. Invest our tax money in educating our teachers, staff, and administration in diversity inclusion - race, ethnicity, disability, and LGBTQ+. We need more than one inclusion officer. We need a team.

Mary E. Mielke, 5730 Foster Ave, 43085, Worthington School District Resident

April Schwarzwald, 445 Colonial Ave., 43085, Worthington School District Resident

Chad Owens, 48 W. South St. , Worthington School District Resident, In order to elevate the level of service of all police departments the sense of entitlement needs to be addressed. One of many effective ways to address the issue is thru defunding.

Maureen Alley, , Worthington School District Resident

Lisa Christy, 450 Whitney Ave, 43085, Worthington School District Resident

Megan Pollock, 382 Loveman Ave , Worthington School District Resident

Ryan Hughes, 6597 Masefield St, Worthington School District Resident, We support this move to incorporate anti-racist policies

Omowali Crowder, 141 Glen Circle, Worthington School District Resident

Linda Wallace, 835 Morning St, Worthington School District Resident

Sarah Mullen, 655 Hartford Street, Worthington, Worthington School District Resident

David Niven, 5858 Granby Street, 43085, Worthington School District Resident

Amelia Shearer, 6875 Bowerman St. E., Worthington School District Resident, As a parent and alumni, it is important to me that the school board listen to students, follow the research, and promote actively anti-racist policies. Research is overwhelming that safety in schools relies first and foremost on mental health services, well-trained and supported counselors, and early intervention. It also shows that SRO mandates result in disproportionate and unintended negative consequences for students of color.

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