

Ridgemont High School Council Delegation

- As previously communicated to the Board of Trustees via email by our Chair, Ridgemont High School Council opposes the move to halt funding that helps support the dedicated school resource officer (SRO) at Ridgemont High School.
- The SRO is one position in a team that delivers integrated additional support to the Ridgemont Community given the school's identification as a priority school. There are over 20 SROs who work in Ottawa schools, however, OCDSB has funded additional support for Ridgemont. It is important to note that the SRO is not, contrary to media coverage, a "policing" role.
- No consultation has been undertaken with students and families at Ridgemont on either removing Ridgemont's additional support or a review of the SRO program. There has not, as of yet, been a motion put forward by the OCDSB to study the SRO program. Trustee Evans, who initiated the motion to remove our funding has provided us with some of the organizations that she has consulted with, however none were the Ridgemont or Gloucester communities. It appears no other trustees have been involved, including those who represent the schools.
- Ridgemont High School Council is of the view that prior to taking any action, consultation with the community is essential, in particular with families with whom the SRO works. The Ridgemont High School Council will support the outcome once there is evidence to support the decision. Ridgemont High School Council is happy to work with the Board of Trustees to ensure that consultation is inclusive of all members of the community and is happy to provide a list of languages to ensure the materials will be provided in the languages of the school's community.
- However until consultation is undertaken with the students and their families who will be impacted by this, Ridgemont High School Council does not support the removal of the SRO officers. We thank the Board of Trustees for their continued support in providing us additional resources. Ridgemont is a wonderful and diverse school that requires a bit of extra support and we are pleased that the Board of Trustees continues to recognize this.