

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
Niagara Falls, New York

Regular Board Meeting

July 29, 2021

**6.02 APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS,
NEW YORK, FOR THE SERVICES OF POLICE OFFICERS TO SERVE AS SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICERS PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Maintaining a safe and orderly environment in our schools has been and continues to be of paramount importance to the students, staff, parents, and community. To that end, the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls previously approved Municipal Cooperation Agreements with the City of Niagara Falls, providing the services of uniformed police officers to serve as Security Officers in the High School and Preparatory Schools, which Municipal Cooperation Agreements as amended were effective through June 30, 2021.

In order to continue the services of the uniformed Police Officers as Security Officers in Niagara Falls High School and Gaskill and LaSalle Preparatory Schools through the 2021-2022 school year, the Superintendent recommends the approval of a new Municipal Cooperation Agreement providing for the continuation of the services of four (4) uniformed Police Officers as Security Officers for period September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$483,547 together with any cost adjustments incurred by the City pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Municipal Cooperation Agreement should be approved so that the services of Police Officers as School Resource Officers continue for period from September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

This action item was prepared by Mark Laurrie, Superintendent of Schools, and the proposed resolution was reviewed by Angelo Massaro, School District Attorney. Mr. Laurrie will answer questions pertaining to this action item.

RECOMMENDATION:

A motion is recommended for the approval of the following resolution: Approval of Municipal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Niagara Falls, New York, for the services of Police Officers to serve as School Resource Officers period September 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

WHEREAS, Maintaining a safe and orderly environment in our schools has been and continues to be of paramount importance to the students, staff, parents, and community; and

WHEREAS, To that end, the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls previously approved Municipal Cooperation Agreements with the City of Niagara Falls, providing the services of uniformed police officers to serve as Security Officers in the High School and Preparatory Schools, which Municipal Cooperation Agreements as amended were effective through June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, In order to continue the services of the uniformed Police Officers as Security Officers in Niagara Falls High School and Gaskill and LaSalle Preparatory Schools through the 2021-2022 school year, the Superintendent recommends the approval of a new Municipal Cooperation Agreement providing for the continuation of the services of four (4) uniformed Police Officers as Security Officers for period September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$483,547 together with any cost adjustments incurred by the City pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Municipal Cooperation Agreement should be approved so that the services of Police Officers as School Resource Officers continue for period from September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Municipal Cooperation Agreement between the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls and the City of Niagara Falls, New York, for the services of four (4) Police Officers to serve as School Resource Officers for period September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a cost not to exceed \$483,547 together with any cost adjustments incurred by the City pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Municipal Cooperation Agreement is subject to such modifications as the Superintendent and School District Attorney deem appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President of the Board be authorized and directed to execute such Municipal Cooperation Agreement; and

RESOLVED, that the District Clerk be directed to obtain the signature of the President of the Board.

MUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS - 2021-22

This Municipal/ Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement") made this day of 2021 and effective the 1st day of September, 2021 by and between the OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, a municipal corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York, with offices at 745 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14302 (the "CITY") and the CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS organized under the laws of the State of New York with offices at 630 - 66th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14304 (the "DISTRICT").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the CITY employs approximately 155 sworn, full-time Police Officers; and.

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT has as one of its buildings the Niagara Falls High School located at 4455 Porter Road, Niagara Falls, NY, (the "High School") which is home to approximately 2300 faculty, staff and students; and also owns and operates LaSalle Prep School located at 7436 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY, and Gaskill Prep School located at 910 Hyde Park Boulevard, Niagara Falls, NY, (the "Prep Schools"); and

WHEREAS, in year 2000, the DISTRICT identified the need for a sworn, uniformed full-time Police Officer employed by the Niagara Falls Police Department ("NFPD") to serve as a School Resource Officer ("SRO"); and

WHEREAS, the duties and expectations of the SRO are consistent with those of a sworn, full time Police Officer; and

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT believes that it is in the best interest of the DISTRICT and its faculty, staff and students to have SROs on site at the High School and at the Prep Schools at times when faculty, staff and students are present; and

WHEREAS, the CITY and the DISTRICT had discussions about NFPD Officers being detailed at the High School and the Prep Schools which resulted in an agreement between the CITY and the DISTRICT to have two (2) NFPD Officers acting as SROs detailed at the High School and one (1) SRO detailed at Gaskill Prep School and one (1) SRO detailed at LaSatfe Prep School, with the DISTRICT reimbursing the CITY for the full cost of these SROs; and

WHEREAS, this arrangement has proven to be beneficial to both the DISTRICT and the CITY; and

WHEREAS, the CITY and the DISTRICT wish to continue this arrangement for the DISTRICT's academic year commencing on September 1, 2021 and concluding June 30, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions set forth in this Agreement, the CITY and the DISTRICT hereby agree as follows:

1. TERM. The term of this Agreement shall commence on September 1, 2021 and terminate on June 30, 2022 unless sooner terminated in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

2. PAYMENT. The DISTRICT agrees to reimburse the CITY for the entire cost of the two (2) SROs detailed to the High School and the two (2) SROs detailed to the Prep Schools. The total cost is estimated to be the sum of \$483,547.00 plus any cost adjustments or increases incurred by the CITY pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (the "CBA") in place between the CITY and the CITY of Niagara Falls Police Club, of which the individuals designated to serve as SROs are members. The DISTRICT agrees to reimburse the CITY in two payments for the cost of the SROs. The first such payment shall be due and payable on January 31, 2022 in the amount of \$193,419.00 and the second such payment in the amount of \$290,128.00 is due and payable on June 30, 2022 together with any adjustments made pursuant to the CBA referred to herein. Payments shall be made by the DISTRICT to the CITY within thirty (30) days of the due date. In addition, the DISTRICT agrees to reimburse the CITY for the cost of any special training obtained by the SROs which is unique and specialized for an SRO position. The DISTRICT must first agree that any such training is necessary and desirable in order for such reimbursement to occur. The DISTRICT also agrees to reimburse the CITY for any overtime costs incurred by the CITY that results from the DISTRICT requiring any or all of the SROs to be present at DISTRICT events or activities outside the usual SRO work day.
3. COST OVERRUNS. The CITY and the DISTRICT agree that there shall be no additional monies due from either party without mutual consent with the exception of the adjustments referred to in Paragraph 2 above which may be necessitated as a result of the CBA referred to herein.
4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BUDGET. The daily schedule to be followed by the SROs shall be determined by the SROs' supervisor at NFPD in consultation with the DISTRICT's Superintendent or his designee. The CITY agrees that the NFPD Officers designated as the SROs shall report for duty at the High School and the Prep Schools on days and times designated by the SROs' supervisor at the NFPD in consultation with the DISTRICT's Superintendent or his designee. On days when the High School and/or the Prep Schools may not be in session, or when the SROs are not scheduled to report to the High School or the Prep Schools for any other reason, the DISTRICT may utilize the SROs elsewhere in the DISTRICT as determined by the SROs' supervisor at the NFPD in consultation with the DISTRICT's Superintendent or his designee.
5. AMENDMENTS. It is agreed that no changes may be made to the duties and responsibilities of the SROs and the amount to be paid by the DISTRICT except as provided in Paragraph 2 hereof without the prior written approval of both the CITY and the DISTRICT. Such approvals will not be withheld provided the changes are not substantive and do not alter the scope, intent or basic elements of the SROs' position. Any changes which are substantive or alter the scope, intent or basic elements of the SROs' position will be implemented by an amendment to this Agreement, provided the same are acceptable to both the CITY and the DISTRICT.
6. RECORDS. The DISTRICT agrees to keep full and accurate records regarding the hours worked by the SROs at the High School and the Prep Schools and or any other alternate location the SROs may work, as directed by their supervisors at the NFPD in consultation with the DISTRICT's Superintendent or his designee. The DISTRICT shall furnish a copy of the records of the SRO's hours worked to the CITY upon request.
7. TERMINATION. The parties agree that the failure of the SROs to render satisfactory services to the DISTRICT may be deemed a cause for the suspension or termination of this Agreement. In the event the DISTRICT shall deem that the SROs have not provided

satisfactory services to the DISTRICT for any reason, the DISTRICT agrees to specify, in writing, the reasons substantiating this determination and provide the same to the supervisor at the NFPD of the SRO officer so designated. The parties agree that the CITY shall then have thirty (30) days within which to cause the officer designated as the SRO to perform satisfactorily. In the event that the performance of the officer so designated does not improve, the CITY will then designate an alternate sworn, full time NFPD Police Officer acceptable to the DISTRICT, to serve as SRO. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the DISTRICT shall have the right to terminate this Agreement for any reason upon giving the CITY sixty (60) days written notice of its intention to terminate, and the Agreement shall so terminate sixty (60) days from the date of the Notice.

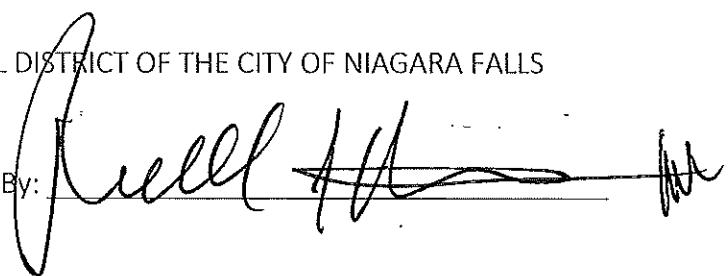
8. **INDEMNIFICATION.** To the extent permitted by law, the CITY and the DISTRICT agree to indemnify, save and hold harmless each other, their agents and employees from any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action arising out of the performance or non-performance of the work and services provided for in this Agreement, and further agrees to defend at its own cost and expense any action or proceeding commenced for the purpose of asserting any claim arising out of this Agreement. In this regard the City is self insured and attaches hereto Schedule "A" a Certificate of Self Insurance.
9. **NON-DISCRIMINATION.** The CITY and the DISTRICT shall not limit access or discriminate in the operation of the facilities against any person on the basis of place of residence, race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or marital status.
10. **APPROVALS.** This Agreement shall not take effect until it is approved by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls and the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the DISTRICT and CITY have executed this Agreement on the day and year indicated.

Date: _____

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS

By: _____



Date: _____

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NY

By: _____

Robert M. Restaino, Mayor

By: _____

Niagara Falls City Clerk