

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Spring 2021 Survey Results

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING

JUNE 2, 2021

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE



School Resource Officer Survey

Purpose: To gather information from stakeholders about the SRO program in order to inform recommendations moving forward

- ▶ May 24 - May 27
- ▶ Students in grades 6-12 via Canvas
- ▶ School-based staff via email
- ▶ School leaders (Principals, VPs, Deans) via email

School Resource Officer Survey

- ▶ Student and staff items were adapted from:
 - ▷ East Tennessee State Study, *Teacher and Student Perceptions about the roles of SRO's in Maintaining School Safety* (2009)
 - ▷ Items reviewed by Principals and Sr. Leadership
- ▶ Voluntary, anonymous, and no mandatory questions
- ▶ Multiple choice (students, staff)
- ▶ Open response (school leaders)

3

Limitations

- ▶ Time (short turnaround)
 - ▷ Less time to think through survey items
 - ▷ Lower response rate for all stakeholders
 - ▷ Not able to take in school (students) or during faculty meeting (staff)
- ▶ Same questions for both staff and students
 - ▷ All multiple choice questions
- ▶ Needed an “unsure” option for a lot of questions
- ▶ Majority of students who responded did not know there was a SRO in their school

4

Response Rates - All Responses

	Responses (#)	Sent (#)	Rate (%)
Students	615	3661	17%
School-Based Staff	249	1514	16%
School Leaders	--*	38	13%

*Less than 10 respondents

5

Definition

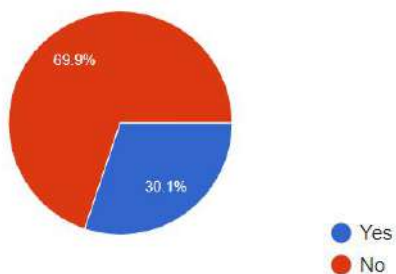
- ▶ A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a Police Officer assigned to work at a school in our town. In Brookline, SRO's work in collaboration with school administration to support students, ensure positive outcomes for youth, and connect the school, students, and families to services and resources in the community.

*Source: Town of Brookline Police Department

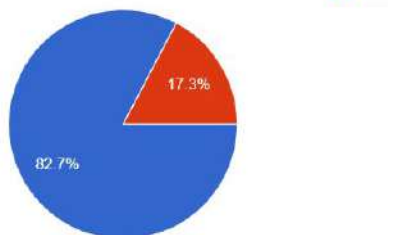
6

Did you know a SRO is a police officer?

Students



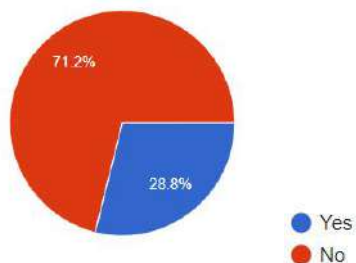
Staff



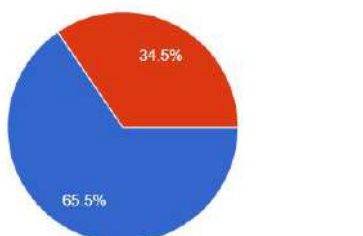
- ▶ 70% of students (424 respondents) did not know a SRO is a police officer
- ▶ 17% of staff (43 respondents) did not know a SRO is a police officer

Did you know that your school has a SRO?

Students



Staff



- ▶ 30% of students (175 respondents) knew their school had a SRO
- ▶ 66% of staff (163 respondents) knew school had a SRO

The following slides outline results of only those students or staff who indicated that they knew there was a SRO in their school

**Response
Rates
(Students & Staff)**

Response Rates - Students with SRO Knowledge

	Responses (#)	Reponses (%)
Middle School	43	25%
High School	126	75%
Female	83	47%
Male	72	41%
Asian	29	17%
Black/African American	19	11%
Hispanic	15	9%
White	102	60%

- ▶ All questions, including school, grade and demographic questions were voluntary
 - ▷ Not a consistent N size for each item
- ▶ “Check all that apply” for race/ethnicity question
 - ▷ Student responses can be counted more than once

*Note: [District enrollment distribution](#)

11

Response Rates - Staff with SRO Knowledge

	Responses (#)	Reponses (%)
BEEP - Grade 5	38	25%
Grades 6-8	21	14%
Grades 9-12	52	35%
Multiple Grade Spans	39	26%
Asian	--	
Black/African American	--	
Hispanic	--	
White	104	68%

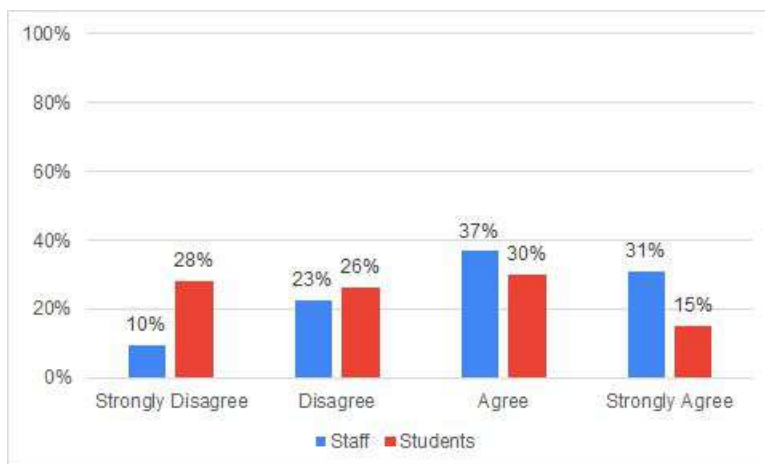
- ▶ All questions, including school, grade and demographic questions were voluntary
 - ▷ Not a consistent N size for each item
- ▶ “Check all that apply” for race/ethnicity question
 - ▷ Staff responses can be counted more than once
- ▶ Less than 10 responses represented with: --

*Note: [District staff distribution](#)

12

Results (Students & Staff)

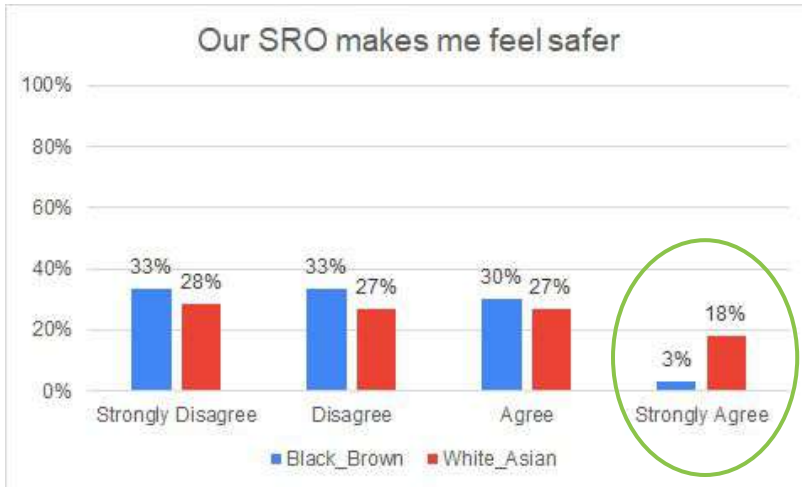
Our SRO makes me feel safer (students) Our SRO makes students at our school feel safer (staff)



- ▶ 45% (77) of students agree/strongly agree that the SRO makes them feel safer
- ▶ 68% (105) of staff agree/strongly agree that the SRO makes students feel safer

*Reminder: Results based upon those who knew their school had a SRO

Students Only -- Difference Between Race/Ethnicity



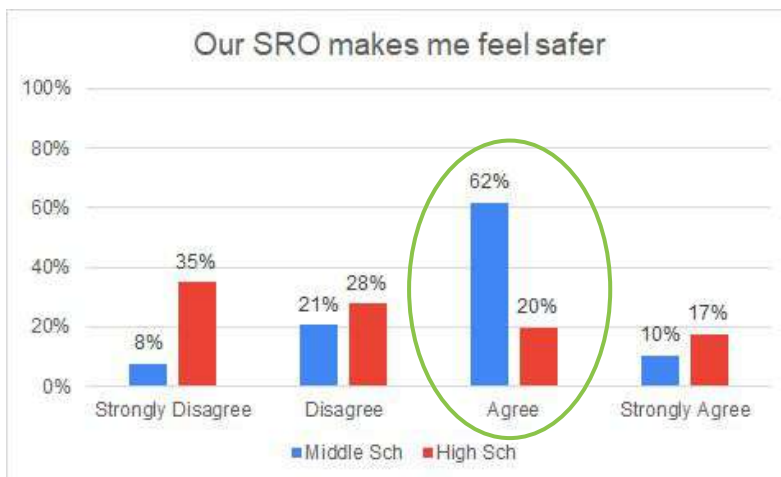
Total N Size

- ▶ Black/Brown: 33
- ▶ White/Asian: 123

*Reminder: Results based upon those who knew their school had a SRO

15

Students Only -- Difference Between Grade Span



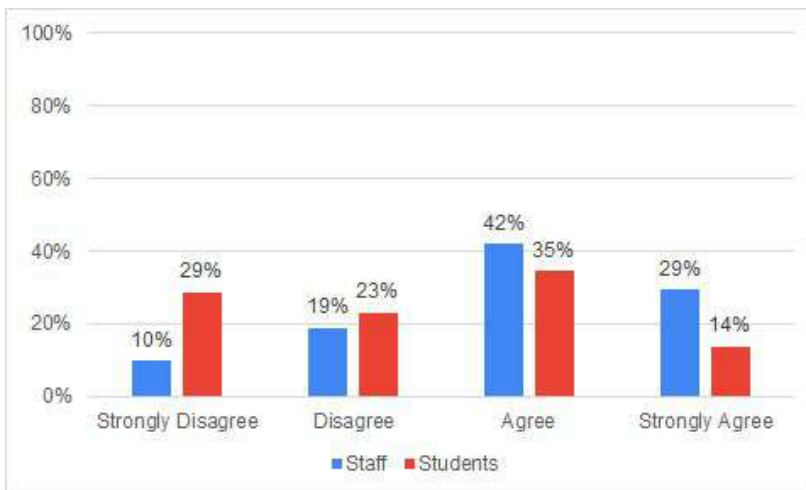
Total N Size

- ▶ Middle Sch: 39
- ▶ High Sch: 126

*Reminder: Results based upon those who knew their school had a SRO

16

I feel comfortable talking to the SRO (students) Students feel comfortable talking to the SRO (staff)

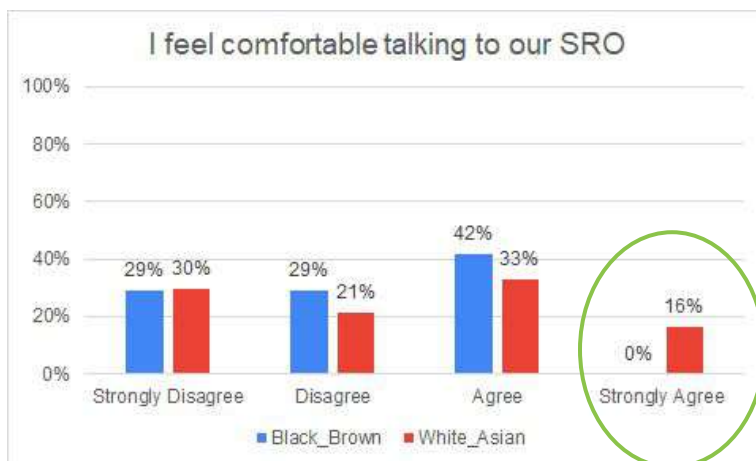


- ▶ 49% (82) of students agree/strongly agree that they feel comfortable talking to the SRO
- ▶ 71% (102) of staff agree/strongly agree that students feel comfortable talking to the SRO

*Reminder: Results based upon those who knew their school had a SRO

17

Students Only -- Difference Between Race/Ethnicity



Total N Size

- ▶ Black/Brown: 31
- ▶ White/Asian: 122

*Reminder: Results based upon those who knew their school had a SRO

18

Students Only -- Difference Between Grade Span



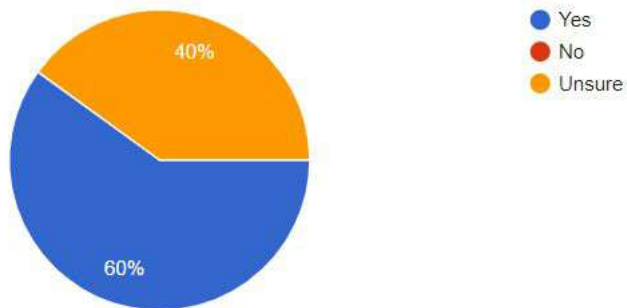
Total N Size

- ▶ Middle Sch: 40
- ▶ High Sch: 122

*Reminder: Results based upon those who knew their school had a SRO

Results (School Leaders)

“Do you support the SRO program as it’s currently implemented?”



*N size of less than 10

21

“Do you support the SRO program...” Continued

- ▶ The SRO program is integral for principals to do their jobs well
- ▶ I believe the SRO is important to our community and allows students to create positive relationships with the police
- ▶ People make the position and I believe strongly in the abilities of the people I have worked with
- ▶ Our SRO is a value added addition to our school

22

“What changes (if any) would you make to the program?”

- ▶ None
- ▶ Uniform change/wear plain clothes
- ▶ Office location
- ▶ Presentation and location that best supports students

23

Additional Feedback

Individual email messages

- ▶ There are many things that SROs do in our schools that are not highlighted in the questions, which focuses mostly on breaking up fights, bullying. etc.
- ▶ One of the best uses of the SROs has always been in our Health and Wellness classes.
- ▶ Students see SRO's during morning arrival time as friendly, helpful faces.
- ▶ If we take away this opportunity for kids and police to meet and chat in the unpressured, safe, familiar setting of school, we take away a lot.
- ▶ Would love for us to think about what's working well and what's not working well and build from there

Paraphrased statements from individual emails

25

Conclusion

Takeaways

Limitations:

- ▷ Time
- ▷ Multiple choice items
- ▷ Low response rates

Keeping these limitations in mind:

- ▶ Differences in how students and staff respond to similar items
 - ▷ Differences in how students of different grade spans and backgrounds respond to the same items
- ▶ Anecdotal feedback of SRO program was positive