



Police Officer Partnership with Readington Township

Presentation at the December 13, 2022 Board of Education Meeting Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools



What was our goal?

After the shooting in Uvalde, TX the district administration and Board of Education began to consider ways in which school **safety and security could be enhanced and augmented** for the safety of students, staff, visitors, and community members.

Goal: Develop a new Safety and Security Plan that included four (4) Class II/III Police Officers, one for each school building.

Actions:

- Collaborate with local police and the Township officials;
- Conduct a financial analysis of such a goal;
- Make recommendations for the best use of officers in the buildings.

Timeline: How did we do our work?

May 24, 2022: The Uvalde, TX shooting occurred.

June 8, 2022: Safety and Security update presentation was provided to the Board of Education. Accomplishments since the 2018 Parkland, FL shooting were outlined along with future meetings.

July 19, 2022: Safety and Security Plan developed and discussed in Executive Session with the BOE.

July, August, September & October Finance Meetings: Safety and Security Plan discussed and refined.

June 2, August 16, November 7, 2022: Collaborative meetings between district administration, BOE representation, law enforcement, and Readington Township officials.

August and September: Leadership Team Meetings.

November 15, 2022 Board of Education Meeting: Shared Services Agreement between Readington Township and the Readington Board of Education approved by the BOE.

November 21, 2022 Township Committee Meeting: Shared Services Agreement between Readington Township and the Readington Board of Education approved by the TC.

The Shared Service Agreement

The agreement was developed collaboratively between the Readington Township Committee and the Readington Township Board of Education and does the following:

- Provides a total of four (4) officers in the district, one in each building;
- Outlines responsibilities of officers while working on district property;
- Shares the total cost for all officers in an even 50%/50% split;
- Can be renewed on an annual basis.

Officer Responsibilities

The responsibilities of officers while on school grounds include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assist school personnel in dealing with emergencies;
- Patrol school buildings and grounds and protect from illegal or potentially threatening activities;
- Inspect points of entry/exit;
- Report and address any observed irregularities;
- Take necessary action with respect to trespassers or suspicious activity;
- Warn, detain, or take custody of violators if necessary.
- ...we want our officers to become members of the school community!



Let's meet them...



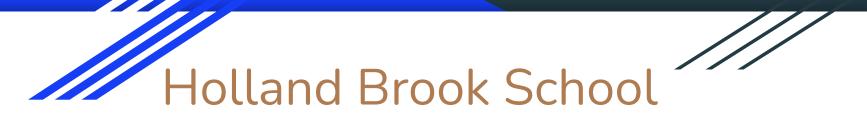


Officer Tom Wallace

Three Bridges School



Officer John Harris





Officer Connor Strohm

Readington Middle School







This job of keeping our children safe, and teaching them well, is something we can only do together, with the help of friends and neighbors, the help of a community, and the help of a nation.

—President Obama, December 16, 2012 (after Sandy Hook)