Interoffice - Memorandum

To: Trustees and Fiscal Officer

From: Judi Boyko

Date: February 21, 2014

RE: **BUSINESS ITEM: MOTION TO APPROVE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2013 – 2014 SCHOOL YEAR AND AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT**

I first reported in August 2013 of the Lakota Local School District's interest to expand its complement of school resource officers (SRO) should the November 2013 levy pass. As the Board is aware, after the levy passed last November, Lakota Local Schools re-approached the Township to discuss how funding afforded additional school resource officers.

Chief Niehaus and Lakota have tentatively agreed, pending Board of Trustee approval of course, to utilize three (3) police officers as SROs. The tentative terms include full reimbursement from Lakota to the Township for the actual days the police officers perform SRO duties, approximately one hundred eighty (180) days which is the number of schools days in a school year. Currently, Lakota and the Township split the cost for said. The new formula places 58% of total costs for the Township to employ the three (3) police officers to Lakota. The subject agreement is for the remainder of this school year so the charge is about $100,000.

The Chief recommends the terms and highly endorses the application and assignment of SROs. He promotes the program provides tremendous value and opportunity to engage and foster cooperation and positive relations with students, parents, and staff. Through these relationships, the police department captures relevant law enforcement information and intelligence needed for investigations and tactical operations. The Chief insists because of departmental restructuring, the three (3) assigned would not deter or reduce police patrol throughout the community and the proposed arrangement would enhance general policing efforts because of the valued relationships the SROs establish with the students.

I am requesting the Board's consideration to endorse the application of the revised formula to calculate Lakota's cost to supply three (3) SRO and to approve this agreement effective through the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT
REMAINDER OF 2013 – 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

This School Resource Officer Agreement ("Agreement") is made on the ____ day of _____, 2014, between **The Board of Trustees of West Chester Township, Butler County, Ohio** ("the Township"), a political subdivision of the State of Ohio ("Township"), whose address is 9113 Cincinnati-Dayton Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069, and **Lakota Local School District, Butler County, Ohio** ("Lakota"), a local school district of the State of Ohio whose address is 5572 Princeton Road, Liberty Township, Ohio 45011-9726.

RECITALS

A. The Township and Lakota wish to establish a more complete liaison with school personnel and the West Chester Police Department in a cooperative effort to prevent juvenile delinquency.

B. The Township will carefully select and assign trained police officers from the West Chester Police Department to work directly in the schools of the Lakota Local School District in cooperation with school administrators and faculty and in accordance with this Agreement.

C. The Township and Lakota will define the financial responsibilities of the Lakota Local School District and West Chester Township.

AGREEMENT

1. <u>Objectives</u>:

1.1. The School Resource Officer's (SRO) responsibilities include building a positive image toward orderly behavior; helping students learn more about the law; and familiarizing students with law enforcement personnel and their objectives and role in society.

1.2. The SRO will reinforce the feeling of pride that students have toward their schools and encourage students to stay in school.

1.3. The SRO will work with school personnel to develop closer contact and better communication with students and evolve an effective program of safety education.

2. <u>Duties of the SRO:</u>

2.1. The SRO will protect the school plant, staff and students.

2.2. The SRO will strive to prevent juvenile delinquency through close contact with students and school personnel and use proven methods for early detection of deviant behavior in students.

2.3. The SRO will investigate delinquent acts within the school system and its neighborhood complex when school or student oriented.

2.4. The SRO will participate as a resource person for the school district, in classrooms and assemblies, and provide service to neighborhood merchants and residents in school related problems.

PROPOSED

2.5. At all times the SRO will be aware of the responsibility to improve the image of the uniformed law enforcement office in the eyes of the student and the community.

3. <u>SRO Scope of Accountability</u>:

3.1. The SRO's assignment is the Lakota Local School District.

3.2. The SRO is first a police officer whose primary job is the enforcement of law. The officer is supervised directly by the West Chester Police Department in accordance with the current chain of command.

3.3. The SRO will extend cooperation to the principals of the schools in the Lakota Local School District, and will function as a security and educational resource person in cooperation with school personnel.

3.4. School principals will continue to assume full responsibility for the enforcement of school discipline and school rules and regulations.

4. <u>Financial Arrangements:</u>

4.1. Lakota agrees to pay the total cost for three (3) school resource officers for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year, equal to the estimated amount of $100,603.60. The total cost includes salary, employer's retirement contribution, Medicare, and Workers Compensation premium for West Chester Police Officers.

4.2. Lakota agrees to pay the total amount due in one lump sum payment after completion of thirty (30) days of full-time service, commencing upon execution of this Agreement.

4.3. Lakota shall pay special in-service training requested by the Superintendent of the Lakota Local School District, above and beyond the regular police training.

West Chester Township Board of Trustees		**Lakota Local School District**	
_____	_____	_____	_____
Judith C. Boyko Township Administrator	Date	Christopher T. Passarge Chief Operations Officer	Date

Approved as to form

_____	_____
Donald L. Crain Law Director	Date

PROPOSED