



## Madison, IN: MCS announces details of enhanced police plan and hiring of School Resource Officers within the district.

On July 12, 2023, the Board of Trustees voted to unanimously approve the Police Plan and hiring additional School Resource Officers (SROs) within the district. “We very much appreciate the work Dr. Brown has done with the City of Madison Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department to develop this plan for our district,” stated Board President, David Storie. “We are very excited about what this means for our district and how it directly ties to our Strategic Plan.”

“This enhanced partnership between the City of Madison Police Department and continuation of the 10+ year support from the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department is evidence of our investment and commitment to student and staff safety,” stated Brown. “One focal area of our upcoming Strategic Plan is student and staff safety and wellness and this partnership allows us to expand the number of and presence of SROs throughout our district to better cover all of our schools. We will have an SRO in each of our buildings to assist in a number of ways throughout the school day.”

SROs are an integral part of our schools and provide essential positive support and representation within our schools. Data from the 2022-2023 school year Secured School Safety Grant showed approximately 5,300 positive encounters with students. These numbers include safety classes across all grade levels including Red Ribbon Week activities, Internet Safety, Buckle Up Challenge, Driver’s Education, Water Safety, and Gun Safety. Other interactions included welfare checks, informal counseling, and individual threat assessments. “Our goal is to be as proactive and positively impacting as possible,” continued Brown. “However, there are situations where law enforcement must also do their job and we hope that by providing a resource officer in each building it provides a safer learning and working environment, provides a positive role model for student conduct, and ensures swift action when investigations must take place.”

New SROs for the district include John Schoenstein, Tristan Storie, Monica Lohrig, Jeff Day, and Sean Pickel. “We are very excited about the skills and heart for our youth that each of these individuals will bring to their position,” shared Brown. Combining educational background with various experiences in and outside of law enforcement, they will be an excellent addition to an already strong team of SROs.

**John Schoenstein** joins the district from the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office where he has served in several capacities over the last twenty-three years. He has worked in dispatch, as a reserve officer, a special deputy, and the last four years as the court security officer. Schoenstein holds an Associate Degree in General Studies with a major in Criminal Justice. Schoenstein will be assigned to Deputy Elementary School.

**Tristan Storie** joins the district from Arvin Sango where he has been working as a welder. Storie recently completed an Associate’s Degree in Natural Resource Law Enforcement at Hocking College and has experience in security with Allied Universal. Storie is looking forward to implementing his learning and returning to serve at his alma mater. Storie will be assigned to Rykers’ Ridge Elementary School.

**Monica Lohrig** has served as the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Jail Commander / Special Deputy since 2019 where she was responsible for the professional performance and administration of all aspects of the jail for Jefferson County. Ranging from enforcement of all laws, plans and directs all correctional programs, formulating, administering, and evaluating department policies and procedures, and compliance review of proper inmate care. Lohrig was previously an Engineering Sergeant with the United States Army. While in service, Lohrig was also a Combat Life Saver - EMT, a member of the Combat Stress Team, and coordinated suicide prevention and drug and alcohol addiction counseling. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Certificate of Completion in Medical Assistant both from Ivy Tech Community College. Lohrig will be assigned to Anderson Elementary School.

**Jeff Day** joins MCS after serving as the lead SRO and Advanced School Safety Specialist for Batesville School Corporation since 2019. Prior to that, Day spent 25 years with the North Vernon Police Department with Sergeant duties including patrol, detective work, and undercover operations in narcotics. He served as the Colonel/Chief Deputy of the Jennings County Sheriff's Department for four years prior to his SRO responsibilities. Day is a Certified Law Enforcement Officer (Tier 1) having graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and has completed the required NASRO training. Day will be assigned to Madison Junior High School.

**Sean Pickel** will join the district in a part-time capacity as a safety consultant, training resource, and floating SRO. Pickel brings vast experience in tactics, bomb threats, active shooter drills and scenarios, counseling sessions, and development and mentoring from his sixteen years as a United States Marine. Pickel earned an Associate in Applied Science in Business Administration from Ivy Tech Community College.

"This particular partnership places MCS as one of the only schools in the regional area with the ability to place SROs in each of our schools," shared Brown. "We are very thankful for and to our law enforcement agencies and how they work with us to place a very high value on the safety of our schools. We would like to thank Chief John Wallace and Sheriff Ben Flint and their teams for the work they have put into this partnership, as well as, Mayor Courtney and the members of the Jefferson County Council. Their investment in this expanded partnership will assist with the purchase of police cars, necessary equipment, and ongoing training opportunities. Unlike other positions within the district, the Jefferson County Sheriff, Ben Flint, provides the deputization of each SRO as a Special Duty Deputy.

Each of the new hires will attend the 40-hour state-required NASRO Training in August. They will join Safety and Security Director Jacob McVey (Tier 1 Certified ), Lead SRO Cody Teltow (Tier 1 Certified )- assigned to MCHS, and recently hired SRO Travis Conover who is assigned to Lydia Middleton Elementary School.