

REPORT TITLE:	Safe and Welcoming Schools: Police/School Board Protocol Update
REPORT NUMBER:	9. 4)BD-01-2025
DESTINATION:	Initial Board Meeting #01
DATE:	November 20, 2024
AUTHOR OF REPORT:	Lonnie Bolton, Superintendent of Student Services
TYPE OF REPORT:	INFORMATION

Background:

1. On October 31, 2024 a revised *Police School Board Protocol* (Appendix A) was signed. This shared document has formed an agreement between the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, the Simcoe County District School Board, Mon Avenir Conseil Scolaire Catholique, Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, Barrie Police Service, South Simcoe Police Service, Rama Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police – Central Region.
2. The original Police/School Board Protocol was signed in 2001.
3. The Police/School Board Protocol was developed to ensure that school boards and local police services meet the requirements of the *Safe Schools Act* and the *Education Act*.
4. The Simcoe County protocol became the template for all other Ontario school boards.
5. Significant changes to the renewed protocol were made in 2016.
6. Implementation of the renewed protocol began in November 2016, when principals and vice-principals from all Simcoe Muskoka District School Board schools attended a joint training session with representatives of all local police services.
7. Key areas of revision found in this version of the Police/School Board Protocol are the addition of Threat Assessment and Intervention protocols, a clear outline regarding sharing of information between schools and police, and clarity regarding performance of parallel investigations done by the school and the police.

Comments:

8. The focus of this protocol is on making sure all our schools are safe places for our students to learn. It ensures that all of our administrative staff and the police services who support them have a common understanding and processes for responding effectively to emergency situations in our schools.
9. We would like to thank all our police services partners along with the other school boards indicated previously in collaborating with SMCDSB on this important document.
10. During this review Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board staff turned their attention to identifying when police should be providing services to our schools outside of their work in keeping our schools safe. Recognizing our policing partners are important and valued members of our communities and that they can provide valuable services to our schools, we developed this breakdown of when police can and cannot be utilized in our schools:

Yes (are permitted to enter our schools **while in uniform)**

- Emergency response i.e., thefts, assaults, Threat Assessment & Intervention Protocol.
- Emergency preparedness i.e. Lockdown drill rehearsals, etc.

- Bike and traffic safety.
- Digital safety presentations.
- Presentation to secondary/high school law classes.
- Parent presentations - as requested by parent council and coordinated by principal ie. contract and use of facilities.
- Participate in charity and career-focused events.
- Paid duty officers i.e, prom night, semi-formals, dances, etc.
 - police are not permitted to be present in the school building for generalized surveillance
 - police can be on site in their patrol car, but only access the facility if police services are summoned by school staff.

No (*are not* permitted to enter our schools)
 Program Delivery i.e., Inside/Out, DARE, VIP
 School presence outside of the “yes” list

11. We are very excited that this protocol adopted the *Violent Threat Assessment and Intervention* (Appendix B) protocols which our Board has been working hard to introduce to all of our administrators and clinicians. This will bring consistency in practice amongst all personnel which is vital when dealing with threats of violence directed at or in our schools.

Conclusion:

This report is provided to the Board for information.