



December 4, 2020

Dear BVIS and DSST: Henry School Community,

Thank you for your ongoing support of both BVIS and DSST Henry Campus! As you know, Denver Public Schools is in the process of eliminating Denver Police Department (DPD) School Resource Officers (SROs) from DPS schools. I want to update you on the process to this point.

The DPS Board of Education approved a resolution this summer to eliminate SROs from all district schools. Part of the reasoning for this decision is the belief that the close proximity of law enforcement to students on campuses directly contributes to the school-to-prison pipeline. The resolution states that the district will have a 25% reduction in the number of SROs in our schools by Dec. 31, 2020, with a goal of all SROs being out of schools by the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Working with Denver police, district leadership determined that part of the initial 25% reduction would take place by removing SROs from our campus. District officials have met with me to discuss how we can manage this transition. Going forward our educators, including our teachers, social workers and school psychologists, and our district's Department of Safety, will continue to respond to safety concerns as they arise, and we are working closely with law enforcement to make sure that, in the rare events when we need more support, the responding officers are prepared to support our students and school.

We greatly appreciate how our SROs have engaged in mediating student conflict, counseling and de-escalation, and look forward to partnering across our schools and communities, including with law enforcement, to continue to support students both at school and outside of school. We will provide you with more updates as they become available, including opportunities to engage in rethinking safety at school.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support as we move forward in this important work. Be safe and stay well!

Sincerely,

Hiliana León, Principal BVIS  
Kelli Herrick, Principal DSST-Henry