

▶ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Liaison officers more than school officers

I was saddened to read last week that the citizens of Monroe County are once again losing another deputy sheriff spot as well as a valuable resource —the school liaison officer position at Jefferson Schools. The Jefferson Schools Board of Education has voted to eliminate the liaison officer position by the end of September.

A school liaison, or school resource officer, provides a number of services beyond a basic police presence on campus. The school liaison officers teach safety classes to students such as Stranger Danger, Internet Safety, DARE and many others. The school officers provide counseling and mentoring to students and often serve as the “community policing officer” for the entire district and area for which they serve. The school officers often assist other officers in solving crime that occurs in the community because of the connection and trust they have developed with the students.

Cuts in school funding from Lansing have forced school districts to make some very serious cuts the past few years. However, school districts must prioritize potential cuts. In my opinion, school safety should never be compromised. Cutting a school resource officer puts students and staff at risk.

This has happened way too much in this county. Several years ago there were 10 deputies serving eight school districts in this county. This cut at Jefferson is going to take that number down to four and it will also directly affect the citizens of Frenchtown Township and the resort beach community. Not only will the school officer not be patrolling those communities during summer breaks or other times when school is not in session, but the other officers assigned to those areas

Letters are welcome

Letters on matters of public interest are welcome. Full name, address and telephone number are required. Letters are limited to 400 words and may be edited. The e-mail address is letters@monroenews.com. Fax: 242-0937.

will now be responding to Jefferson Schools to handle situations which require police assistance.

Therefore it would be very wise for the leaders of Frenchtown Township and the Resort Beach Authority to study this situation and consider teaming up with Jefferson Schools to help keep this valuable position in place.

Randy Sehl
Secretary, Monroe County Deputy Sheriff Association
Bedford Public Schools resource officer
Temperance

Everyone has right to run as write-in

As one veteran who believes in and supports the American system of electing our public officials, I have two questions for Mr. Steven Lennex:

1. What's your problem?
2. When did having and knowing your rights, then doing right, become arrogant and dishonest?

I also call on all citizens of Bedford to vote their choice Nov. 6 for president of our United States to our township officials whether they are a write-in or not!

Clark S. Alcock
Lambertville