

Dear Akron Public Schools Faculty, Staff and Families:

I am writing to inform you about a serious incident that occurred at Firestone CLC on October 16, 2024, involving an Akron Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) and a student during the morning routine metal detector procedures. A second Akron Police Department officer, who was present, also became involved. There was an interaction between a student and the SRO which ultimately resulted in the officer using force against the student. The incident was witnessed by students and staff.



I reviewed video footage of the incident; and, based on my review, I made an executive decision to request the SRO be removed from the school and requested, per our SRO contract with the City, a meeting with City officials to make the removal permanent. On October 17, 2024, APS officials, including Board President Autry and myself, met with Akron Police Chief Harding and City officials to review the incident and express our concern. I also spoke directly with Mayor Malik about this matter.

I want to assure you that the District took immediate action following this incident:

- Emergency Medical Services provided a medical evaluation for the student involved.
- APS requested the immediate removal of the School Resource Officer involved with the incident, and the SRO has not returned since the incident.
- APS leadership immediately contacted the Akron Police Department and the City of Akron's leadership to inform them of the incident.
- Counselors and Victim's Assistance were deployed to Firestone CLC to offer support to students and staff who witnessed the incident.
- Firestone families and staff were notified on the day of the incident.

I want to be clear about our position: While we deeply value the protection our law enforcement officers provide to the District and the important work they do in building positive relationships and trust between our scholars and law enforcement through the SRO program, there must be accountability when incidents like this occur between an SRO and a student.

The safety and well-being of our scholars and staff remain my highest priority. We will continue to ensure support resources are available across our district for any scholar who needs assistance processing this incident.

Thank you for your understanding as we work to ensure the safety and security of our school community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Robinson
Superintendent of Schools