

I also support having School Resource Officers in Barre's schools. They have been a positive influence and I think it makes sense to have children learn at an early age that a police officer is someone they can respect and turn to when needed.

Some school districts have apparently misused the SRO position, having officers take on discipline issues that historically have been and should be handled by school staff. Policy should be clear on what is appropriate for the SRO to do and routine discipline is not one of them. We've seen news videos of SRO's body-slammings a student, for example. That is clearly out of line, and if it happened in Barre, I'm sure the officer would face severe consequences.

Rep. Tommy Walz, Barre City