



Whitewright Independent School District

P.O. Box 888 • Whitewright, TX 75491 • 903-364-2155

Steve Arthur, Superintendent • Bobby Worthy, Assistant Superintendent

To: WISD Parents and Community Members

Subject: WHITEWRIGHT ISD Police Department

The justification for starting our own Police Department at Whitewright ISD comes from the increasing number of school shootings and threats of violence in Texas and across the nation over the past several years. After much research and numerous conversations with the Board of Trustees concerning necessary school security measures, we considered the option of utilizing officers from the Whitewright Police Department or Grayson County Sheriff's Department, but neither agency could accommodate our request of two officers for 171 school days. At that point the decision was made to form our own police department. The Board of Trustees took action on June 18th adopting policy to establish the department and begin the application process with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. After the successful inspection from TCOLE on August 8th, we now have our own department that will hold the commission of our two officers. Police Chief Judy Sims and Officer Michael Stephens, with a combined 36 years of law enforcement experience, will be responsible for maintaining a safe and secure environment on all three of our campuses and at all of our night time activities hosted at Whitewright ISD. The initial startup cost for fees, equipment, cars, and the salaries of two officers will be included in the general fund budget, with no cuts to other programs. Our Board of Trustees has established this as a top priority and will fund it appropriately in order to ensure the safety of the Whitewright ISD students and staff. Feel free to contact me if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Arthur". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Arthur