

**Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Resolution No. 17/18-40
Student Safety and Gun Violence Prevention**

WHEREAS, our public schools are charged not only with supporting student achievement, but also providing a foundation for mental and physical health, personal growth and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, student safety is a prerequisite for consistently high levels of academic and social development; and

WHEREAS, violence and harassment can not only alienate students from their peers and their environment, thereby impeding learning, but also cause injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Diablo Unified School District (the “District”) supports the right of students and staff to attend schools that are safe and free from violence and harassment, especially life-threatening forms of violence; and

WHEREAS, in its May 2017 study, Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2016, the National Center for Education Statistics found that 21 percent of students aged 12 to 18 said they were bullied at school; and

WHEREAS, in the same study, 16 percent of high school students reported carrying a weapon at any point during the previous 30 days and 4 percent reported carrying a weapon on campus during the previous 30 days; and

WHEREAS, the study also noted that 4 percent of students had access to a loaded gun without adult permission, either at school or away from school, during the school year; and

WHEREAS, senseless and tragic mass shootings at places such as schools, colleges, and universities; movie theatres; music festivals; hospitals and medical clinics; shopping malls; and religious institutions have highlighted the dangers of and clearly demonstrates that gun-related violence can occur any place at any time; and

WHEREAS, more than 150,000 Americans have experienced a shooting on campus since the Columbine tragedy and hundreds of lives have been lost as a result; and

WHEREAS, the recent massacre at Parkland, Florida’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School took 17 lives and shocked the conscience of the nation; and

WHEREAS, gun violence on school campuses, while relatively rare, represents a particularly egregious and unacceptable threat to the lives of students, teachers and staff across the country; and

WHEREAS, gun violence in schools occurs in America with a frequency and a severity that is unparalleled anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, exposure to trauma can adversely affect a child’s health for the rest of their life; and

WHEREAS, safe schools provide an environment where teaching and learning can flourish; disruptions are minimized; violence, bullying and fear are absent; students are not discriminated against; expectations for behavior are clearly communicated and standards of behavior are maintained; and consequences for infractions are consistently and fairly applied; and

WHEREAS, teachers are at a school site to teach using their considerable skill and expertise and to not become trained in weapons and shooting; and

WHEREAS, the District believes that school safety and freedom from gun violence is a non-partisan value and imperative and are the responsibilities of all school community members and all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the District has completed and continues to hold regular drills as prescribed in both school site and district emergency plans and that said plans involve all school District personnel, law enforcement, fire and medical rescue personnel, emergency management personnel and others essential to preventing, mitigating or resolving any potential crisis; and

WHEREAS, the District reviews school site discipline rules and procedures in order to ensure they are appropriately enforced and that student handbooks explaining codes of conduct, unacceptable behavior and disciplinary consequences are given to all students, parents and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the most effective approach to creating safe school environments is a comprehensive, coordinated effort including school-wide, District-wide and community-wide strategies supplemented with legislation, resources and support at the state and federal legislation level.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the District hereby demands action from our State and Federal Representatives to reinstate the assault weapon ban and adopt stricter controls governing the sale, transfer, possession, manufacturing, and distribution of all firearms, dangerous weapons, and ammunition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those stricter controls include not only comprehensive and thorough background checks of all purchases of firearms, including curios and relics; dangerous weapons; and ammunition; and include the purchase of those items facilitated through the Internet and at gun shows; but also an outright ban on semi-automatic firearms, high-capacity magazines, armor-piercing ammunition, bump stocks, and any other equipment, alteration, or modification that would increase a firearm's capacity for ammunition or rate of fire; as well as reasonable waiting periods and mandated training in the safe use of guns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will continue to improve processes and communications that facilitate identifying students at risk of harming themselves or others to connect them with appropriate supports and resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will continue to work with a broad spectrum of local community stakeholders, local law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, students, teachers and staff to take any threats of violence seriously and to develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive school climate, free from harassment and violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District urges the state of California and the United States Congress to invest in wraparound services to prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in our schools and to provide funding for programs and staff such as counselors, nurses and psychologists, that support students' mental, physical and emotional health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District asks the United States Congress to repeal the prohibition against data collection and research on gun violence by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District urges the state of California and the United States Congress to implement common sense measures that prioritize student safety and environments where all students have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will transmit copies of this resolution to federal and state elected officials to demand those officials take immediate action to enact meaningful gun control legislation to prevent even one more child from being harmed by gunfire.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote of the members of the Governing Board of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District of Contra Costa County, State of California, this 9th day of April, 2018.

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTENTIONS: _____

ABSENT: _____

Debra Mason
President of the Board of Education of
Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Attested to:

Nellie Meyer, Ed.D.
Secretary of the Board of Education of
Mt. Diablo Unified School District