

LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution 6-15-16 In Support of Safe Schools and the Prevention of Gun Violence

WHEREAS: Violence, and particularly gun violence; is a public safety issue that profoundly affects children and their families; and

WHEREAS: Children are more likely to be exposed to violence than adults. The 2008 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found that nearly two-thirds of children and youth had been victims or witnesses of violence within the past year; and

WHEREAS: Children who are exposed to violence are more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, and to have challenges with aggression and attachment. Exposure to violence is also associated with academic and cognitive impacts, delinquency, and involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; and

WHEREAS: Incidents of violence have profound and long lasting impacts on school communities affecting students and staff socially, emotionally and academically; and

WHEREAS: Over 15,000 children and teens suffered gun injuries in 2013 in the United States; and

WHEREAS: 2,465 represents the number of children and teens killed by from guns in the United States in 2013 with 251 California children and teens being lost to gun violence in 2013; and

WHEREAS: California lost the most children to gun violence of any state between 2000-2013; and

WHEREAS: December 14, 2015 marks the three-year anniversary of the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, which was the second deadliest mass shooting in American history; and

WHEREAS: There have been approximately 95 school shootings nationwide since December 2012; and

WHEREAS: Firearms are the most common method of suicide by youth, which is true for males and females, younger and older adolescents, and for all races; and

WHEREAS: More than 75% of guns by youth in suicide attempts and guns causing unintentional injuries were kept in the home of the victim, a relative, or a friend; and

WHEREAS: La Cañada Unified School District is committed to a healthy, safe, and supportive environment both at school and in the home for all children in La Cañada; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: La Cañada Unified School District will communicate information to families about updated state laws that require guns to be stored safely and away from children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The La Cañada Unified School District remains committed to supporting the health and mental health needs of all students, especially those who have experienced trauma due to exposure to violence, and commits to providing mental health services to a student who has experienced trauma due to exposure to violence for as long as the student needs it; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The La Cañada Unified School District will provide immediate and appropriate resources and support for students at risk of self-harm or harming others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The La Cañada Unified School District will continue to extend and deepen our partnerships with the City of La Cañada Flintridge and community organizations to prevent violence and support children and families who have been exposed to the trauma associated with violence.

Adopted this 1st day of December, 2015

AYES _____

NOES _____

ABSTAIN: _____

Andrew Blumenfeld

David Sagal

Ellen Multari

Dan Jeffries

Kaitzer Puglia