



Resolution 2017-18-25 School Safety

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 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, on February 14, 2018, fourteen students and three school staff members were tragically killed in a school shooting that lasted six minutes and was reportedly perpetrated by a teenager with an AK-15 styled semi-automatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; and

WHEREAS, according to the non-profit organization Gun Violence Archive, there have been at least 239 school shootings nationwide since January 2014. A school shooting is defined as a shooting on the property of an elementary school, secondary school or college campus during school hours or during extracurricular activities; and of the 239 school shootings, 438 people were shot and 138 were killed; and

WHEREAS, the alleged shooter in the Parkland school massacre purchased his military-style assault weapon legally, despite reportedly having a history of making threats against students and minorities; 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, Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban in 1994. When the ban was in effect, the number of gun massacres (defined as six deaths or more) dropped by 37 percent and the number of deaths by gun massacres dropped by 43 percent; and

WHEREAS, Congress allowed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban to expire in 2004. The number of gun massacres increased by 183 percent and the number of deaths from gun massacres increased by 239 percent between 2004 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, gun violence in schools occurs in America with a frequency and a severity that is unparalleled anywhere in the world; 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, exposure to trauma can adversely affect a child's health for the rest of their life; and

WHEREAS, Campbell Union School 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, all students, regardless of background, deserve access to services that support and enhance their physical, mental and emotional health; and

WHEREAS, the Campbell Union School District partners with community health services to help our students and families who need support with social-emotional and other non-instructional issues; and

WHEREAS, state and federal funding of K-12 public schools have been inadequate with the rising costs of educating and supporting students, forcing the Campbell Union School District to make difficult budget decisions on programs that help address the social-emotional well-being of our students; and

WHEREAS, the most effective approach to creating safe school environments is a comprehensive, coordinated effort including schoolwide, districtwide and communitywide strategies supplemented with legislation, resources and support at the state and federal legislation level;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the Campbell Union School District calls upon the federal government to pass common sense gun reforms that would help protect students from gun violence, including universal background checks, reinstating the federal assault gun ban, and prohibiting sales of guns to violent criminals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Campbell Union School District urges the state of California and the United States Congress to increase funding for 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 Campbell Union School District will continue to complete and 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Campbell Union School District will continue to work with a broad spectrum of local community stakeholders, local emergency responders and 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 copies of this resolution, with a cover letter, be provided immediately to the President, U.S. Secretary of Education, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate that represent the Campbell Union School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution, with a cover letter, be provided immediately to the members of the California state legislature that represent the Campbell Union School District; and

Passed and adopted this 29th day of the month of March in 2018.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Governing Board Clerk