

Los Altos School District

Resolution #17/18-23

Demanding Federal Gun Control Action to Prevent Death and Injury

WHEREAS, gun violence in the United States, resulting in over 30,000 deaths annually and 80,000 non-fatal injuries, including homicides, suicides, and accidental shootings, is unacceptable and demands immediate attention and action; 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, community violence, which is often gun violence that occurs in a community but does not directly impact a child, still negatively impacts learning, health, and behavior, interfering with the ability of students to succeed in school and in life; and

WHEREAS, the crisis of gun violence in our country necessitates a sustained, coordinated, and collaborative effort involving entire communities, elected officials at every level of government, law enforcement, and the entire criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, we strive to use data to make informed decisions about public policy and must also look to the evidence about gun violence to make rational choices about the gun control policies needed to protect our children and their safety; and

WHEREAS, elected officials must commit to closing gaps in the current patchwork of regulation, including those gaps that enable felons, people convicted of domestic violence, children, those found to be a danger to themselves or others, and other prohibited persons to access firearms, and those that allow the trafficking of illegal guns; and

WHEREAS, recent and horrific mass shootings in our schools such as the Sandy Hook Massacre in 2012, where 20 six- and seven-year-old children and six members of the school's staff were murdered and at Marjory Stoneman High School, where 14 students and three adults were killed, have shattered communities and families, leaving emotional scars;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Altos School District Board of Trustees demands action from our State and Federal Representatives to adopt stricter controls governing the sale, transfer, possession, manufacturing, and distribution of all firearms, dangerous weapons, and ammunition;

AND 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;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the elimination of the Dickey Amendment and any other restrictions on the collection and compiling of data related to violence perpetrated with firearms, including research into the causes and consequences of gun violence, such as that research that was begun by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention but abruptly halted in 1996 when the Dickey Amendment was enacted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Altos School District supports organized student and adult ally action to amplify students' voices and work toward creating a future where children are no longer murdered in schools, including such activities as walkouts, sit-ins, civics training, voter registration campaigns, and other acts of peaceful protest;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Altos School District transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and that we demand those officials take immediate action to enact meaningful gun control legislation and prevent even one more child being harmed by gunfire.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Los Altos School District Board of Trustees at its meeting held on March 12, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Jeffrey Baier
Secretary to the Board of Trustees