

LAUSD RESOLUTION 030-17/18 – Safeguarding Our Schools

Mr. Melvoin, Ms. García, Ms. Gonez – Safeguarding Our Schools: Demanding Common Sense Gun Laws and Best Practices to Protect our Students and Staff (Res-030-17/18)

(For Action March 13, 2018)

Whereas, Courageous student-survivors of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida and galvanized students across the country have vocally advocated for stronger gun control laws and have built a movement demanding the right to attend school in safety;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is inspired by and stands with these student activists and echoes their demands for more action to protect our communities from the federal to the local level, because all students in the United States should have the right to attend school in a safe environment where they are free to learn and grow, protected from threats of violence;

Whereas, In the first 45 days of 2018, there has been 17 school shootings, including one at the District's Sal Castro Middle School; and 239 school shootings have torn through American schools since the country collectively said, "never again," following the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut;

Whereas, In the United States, gun violence takes the lives of 7 children and teens on average each day; since 1973, there have been more than 4 million-gun injuries, including 13,000-gun deaths per year;

Whereas, Despite significant research showing that stricter gun laws abroad have dramatically decreased the loss of life, the United States continues to have some of the weakest federal gun laws of any developed nation and we own nearly half of the world's firearms;

Whereas, Even here in California, where we have some of the country's strictest gun laws, assault weapons are not banned, regulations allow individuals to buy from unlicensed gun dealers, and individuals may legally purchase a rifle or shotgun before the age of 21; and the tragic effects of gun violence are felt acutely by our communities;

Whereas, The federal government has failed to adequately regulate guns, leaving 1,200 school sites in the District and all others nationwide to bear responsibility to keep students, teachers, and staff safe from the threat of gun violence;

Whereas, The District recognizes that no single law, program, or activity will prevent tragedies, but has built a foundation of safety based on pillars of prevention like positive school-wide behavior intervention, Integrated Safe School Plans, threat assessment teams, and social media monitoring to ensure a safe school environment;

Whereas, Los Angeles School Police, District Operations, Student Health and Human Services, Local Districts, and school sites collaborate with each other, with local and federal law enforcement agencies, and with school communities to prevent gun violence, such as through the launching of the LA Unified Campus Safety Campaign and Initiatives on March 1, 2018;

Whereas, No educator should have to bear the additional load of ensuring safety from gun violence on top of the tremendous responsibility to provide excellent instruction and social-emotional support to our students; and no parent or guardian should have to send his or her child to school in fear that the child may become a victim of gun violence; and

Whereas, One more injury or death at the hands of a school shooter is too many and it is the responsibility of all of us to do whatever we can to prevent these acts; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District calls upon the federal government to immediately:

- Pass common sense gun reform legislation, including banning assault weapons, universal background checks, and licensing and training gun owners;
- Increase funding for student mental health services to identify and rehabilitate at-risk youth; and
- Fund research on the detection and prevention of gun violence;

Resolved further, That the Board calls upon the Governor and the California State Legislature to reevaluate and tighten gun control laws in order to close loopholes and decrease access to assault weapons, and to provide funding and guidance to all California schools in creating and implementing school safety plans and training; and, be it finally

Resolved, That building upon the District's pillars of prevention, the Superintendent shall:

- Present to the Board within 30 days the current District policies on gun violence prevention and active shooter response and include steps that the District will take to move toward greater student safety in light of increases in school shootings;
- Work with school-based staff to support peaceful, safe, age-appropriate demonstrations or other expressions of opinion related to school safety that ensure the constitutional rights of students to express themselves, but minimize disruption to instructional time;
- Within 90 days, develop strategies to achieve the goal of ensuring safe school communities that are prepared with best-practices for emergency scenarios, including those involving gun violence, which may include additional trainings for school-site personnel for active shooter scenarios, school site drills that are age-appropriate for students, and physical school safety site assessments;
- Create a Safe Schools Task Force within 180 days comprised of representatives of all stakeholder groups (including parents, students, teachers, administrators, other school-based staff, and community organizations), law enforcement experts, and district personnel to meet quarterly to review and evaluate the effectiveness of District-wide safety and security plans; and
- Regularly re-evaluate the District's readiness to respond to any incident of gun violence on our campuses and annually update the Board on the District's and schools' safety plans and quantitative data showing how the District is verifying plan implementation.