

Resolution  
of the  
Board of Education  
of the  
Oakland Unified School District

Resolution No. 1718-0174

School Safety

WHEREAS, there is a need for Oakland Unified School District and the nation's major city school systems to express their positions on school safety matters that affect its students and the children residing in its cities;

WHEREAS, thousands of Oakland Unified and students from across the United States have publicly expressed concern for their safety and well-being and have indicated that policymakers should act immediately to protect them in school and beyond;

WHEREAS, the leaders in Oakland Unified respect the concerns of students, and support the growing civic and social participation of students that was inspired by recent events;

WHEREAS, since the school shooting in Columbine in 1999, there have been numerous other school shootings, including those in Red Lake (MN), Lancaster (PA), Blacksburg (VA), Chardon (OH), Cleveland (OH), Sandy Hook (CT), Broward County (FL), St. Mary's County (MD) and many others that have taken scores of young lives;

WHEREAS, too many of our young people have been shot and killed on the streets of Oakland and major cities across the United States;

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with a gun than people in other developed countries;

WHEREAS, Americans make up about 4.4 percent of the world's population but own some 42 percent of the world's guns;

WHEREAS, assault weapons have no place in society and other types of guns are too easily obtained;

WHEREAS, teachers are not trained law enforcement officers, and should not be asked or incentivized to keep weapons accessible in their classrooms;

WHEREAS, there is no reason based on any viable research to suggest that adding guns into a school setting or arming teachers would prevent these acts of violence;

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WHEREAS, schools in Oakland Unified and across the country need considerable additional resources to plan for the possibility of such acts of violence, coordinate with law enforcement, and secure their buildings from intruders;

WHEREAS, many schools lack the mental health counselors, psychologists, and social workers they need to identify and work with students showing warning signs for depression and violence;

WHEREAS, the nation's data collection on gun violence and gun ownership is inadequate to monitor, understand, or prevent these events from happening;

WHEREAS, the multiple school shootings that the nation has witnessed over the years have complex causes requiring multiple solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Great City Schools, Oakland Unified and the other Council of Great City Schools member districts stand with students across the nation in demanding effective and comprehensive action from the federal government to protect schoolchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District ("Board") calls on the Congress of the United States to ban the sale, purchase, possession, and use of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition cartridges, except those required by the U.S. military and law enforcement to protect its or its allies' people and interests;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls on the Congress of the United States to require and strengthen universal background checks to possess any type of firearm;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls on the President of the United States to charge all agencies of the federal government with the task of reducing the number of gun-related injuries and deaths in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board is opposed to the arming of teachers to protect schools and children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls on the Congress of the United States to extend the perimeter of Gun-Free School Zones;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds to allow Oakland Unified and other school districts across the nation to plan and coordinate (i) tiplines/helplines and (ii) school security efforts with law

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enforcement officials and (iii) make other building alterations, e.g., install interior locking doors, that may be necessary to protect students, teachers, and staff;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds to increase the numbers of counselors, mental health staff, psychologists, restorative justice practitioners, and social workers in our schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds for programs to educate students and their families on the dangers of firearms;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls on all of the Oakland Unified-authorized charter schools and non-Oakland Unified schools in Oakland to adopt a similar resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls on the Congress of the United States to require that states and the federal government collect the data necessary to track, monitor, understand, and prevent gun violence in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to: (i) require that all school and office site leaders and front office staff to obtain emergency preparedness training and to prepare their site staff and students with age and role-appropriate instructions and drills as part of their school and office site safety plans, (ii) make a 24x7 staffed tipline/helpline available through Oakland Unified staff, community and/or government partners to alert mental health or law enforcement/security personnel of concerns related to someone who is in need of support or protection and (iii) find ways to safely secure classrooms and offices from the inside by authorized staff.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

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NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSE:

ABSENT:

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**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on April 11, 2018.

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Aimee Eng  
President, Board of Education

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Kyla Johnson-Trammell  
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education