

**Seattle School District #1
Board Resolution**



Resolution No. 2017/18-17

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington to declare support for sensible gun safety legislation, declare opposition to efforts to arm educators in our schools, and declare support of the March for Our Lives on March 24, 2018.

WHEREAS, Seattle School Board Policy No. 0010, Instructional Philosophy, affirms that “It is the moral imperative of the School Board and the Superintendent to ensure that all students receive an education” that includes the commitment to “Schools that provide a safe, secure, and supportive environment” and to social-emotional learning; and

WHEREAS, gun violence presents a clear and present danger to the students, parents, educators, paraeducators, administrators, and support staff of the Seattle School District; and

WHEREAS, Washington state law (RCW 28A.600.420 and RCW 9.41.280) and Seattle School Board policies (3248 and 4210) already prohibit weapons and firearms on school properties; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, there have been 291 shootings on elementary, middle, and high school and college campuses in the United States which averages to about one per week,¹ and 168 of those shootings were at K-12 schools;² and

WHEREAS, in the past five years, eight school shootings have occurred in Washington state, four of which resulted in injury or death,³ and facilities in the Seattle School District, and districts around Washington State, have far too often been the scenes of gun violence and threats of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in Washington, an 18-year-old can buy a military style assault weapon with no background check or waiting period;⁴ and

WHEREAS, gun violence, and threats of gun violence, in schools undermine the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments; and

WHEREAS, more guns results in more homicides,⁵ children of color are victims of homicide by firearms at a higher rate than white children in King County,⁶ and our nation is now aware that

¹ Everytown for Gun Safety; School Shootings in America Since 2013. February 2018, <https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>.

² Everytown for Gun Safety; Keep Guns Out of Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; February 2018; <https://everytownresearch.org/guns-in-elementary-middle-and-high-schools>.

³ Everytown for Gun Safety; 291 School Shootings in America since 2013; <https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/#2919>

⁴ <https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/washington-lawmakers-should-take-vote-on-assault-weapons-limits/>

⁵ <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>.

persons of color are more likely to be wrongfully shot by persons in positions of power, leads to the conclusion that arming educators could have a disproportionately adverse and lethal impact on students of color;⁷ and

WHEREAS, students have seized the conscience of the nation with their demand for strong action to reduce preventable gun violence and on March 24, 2018, a National March for Our Lives will be held by student leaders seeking to deliver an unmistakable message that now is the time to pass commonsense gun safety laws; and

WHEREAS, sensible gun safety legislation will strengthen protections for our schools and students by preventing dangerous individuals from attaining firearms; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Board of Directors that Seattle and Washington State **must** be national leaders in innovative and meaningful policy to confront gun violence;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Seattle School Board supports sensible gun safety legislation to protect students and staff, such as:

- raising the age to purchase assault weapons to 21,
- implementing Enhanced Background Checks for Assault Weapons,
- banning the purchase and sale of “assault” or semi- automatic rifles and of any accessories designed to increase a gun’s rate of fire,
- establishing safety programs in schools that do NOT include arming educators or staff,
- eliminating private gun sale loopholes,
- providing funding for thorough gun violence research, including removing the prohibition on research and data collection by the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC);
- supporting prevention, intervention and community re-entry programs that reduce community and gun violence; and
- increased funding for programs and school staffing (i.e. counselors, nurses, and psychologists) that support student mental health, social and emotional learning, and anti-bulling; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Seattle School District supports legislation currently under consideration by the Washington State Legislature that would enact some of the above measures, including Engrossed Senate Bill 5992, Senate Bill 6620 and House Bill 3004; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Seattle School District wholly rejects the misguided suggestion, advanced by President Donald J. Trump, the National Rifle Association (NRA) and some members of the Washington State Legislature, that it is either desirable or

⁶ According to a November 25, 2013 report from Public Health – Seattle & King County, available at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/~media/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/documents/impact-firearms-children-report.ashx>.

⁷ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2018/02/27/arming-teachers-would-put-black-and-latino-kids-in-danger/?utm_term=.1aa6bc969c00.

appropriate to arm teachers in schools for any purpose, and will maintain existing prohibition of firearms at school and will NOT support any effort to arm educators and staff; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Seattle School District wholly endorses and will participate in the student led March for Our Lives on March 24, 2018.

ADOPTED this 28th day of February, 2018

Director Leslie Harris, President

Director Rick Burke, Vice President

Director Jill Geary, Member-at-Large

Director Zachary DeWolf

Director Eden Mack

Director Betty Patu

Director Scott Pinkham

ATTEST: _____
Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA