

RESOLUTION NO. 17-16

LOS GATOS-SARATOGA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gun Violence Prevention

Since 2013 there have been nearly 300 shootings in school communities or approximately one incident per week resulting in 59 deaths and 124 non-fatal gunshot injuries. On February 14, 2018, a school shooter using a military style weapon at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida killed seventeen people and fourteen more were taken to hospitals, making it one of the world's deadliest school massacres.

The Governing Board of Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District holds the safety of its students as a priority and declares here a resolution beholden to that responsibility.

WHEREAS regardless of the individuals involved in a shooting, or the circumstances that gave rise to it, gunfire in schools and at colleges and universities undermines the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments.

WHEREAS, gun related violence at public schools and in other public spaces, including mass shootings have become an any day occurrence; and

WHEREAS, firearms are the third leading cause of death of children 17 and younger in the United States due to homicide, suicide and accidental shootings; and

WHEREAS, of shootings perpetrated by minors at primary and secondary schools and for which the source of the firearm was known, more than half of the kids obtained the gun at home and not secured by an adult; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in six shootings occurred after a confrontation or verbal argument intensified because of the presence of a gun rather than in spite of it; and

WHEREAS, statistics reporting incidents classified as school shootings did not include incidents where guns were brought into schools but not fired, creating data underestimating the number of guns brought to schools; and

WHEREAS, school children spend increasingly more time participating in lock-down and active shooter drills, detracting from time spent on critical classroom learning and invoking significant anxiety and fear among students and teachers that impedes learning; and

WHEREAS, all students have the right to attend school and live in a community free from the fear of death or injury as a result of gun-related violence; and

WHEREAS, each teacher and staff member has the right to working in an environment free from fear of death or injury as a result of gun-related violence; and

WHEREAS, all parents and guardians have the right to live in a community and send their children to a school in which they have confidence in their children's physical, psychological, and emotional safety; and

WHEREAS, we are local elected officials charged with ensuring the education, health, and safety of students on behalf of parents and our community, and therefore cannot accept the status quo of access to guns in our State and Country;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District demands action from our State and Federal Representatives to reinstate the assault weapon ban and adopt stricter controls governing the sale, transfer, possession, manufacturing, and distribution of all firearms, dangerous weapons, and ammunition.

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District will transmit copies of this resolution to federal and state elected officials to demand those officials take immediate action to enact meaningful gun control legislation to prevent even one more child from being harmed by gunfire.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 6th day of March, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

Clerk, Board of Trustees, LGSUHSD