



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 18-101

RESOLUTION RELATING TO SCHOOL SHOOTINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

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

WHEREAS, thousands of our students 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; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the nation's public school systems respect the concerns of their students, and support the growing civic and social participation of high school students that was inspired by recent events; and

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), Parkland (FL), and many others that have taken scores of young lives;

WHEREAS, too many of our young people are shot and killed on the streets of our major cities almost every day; and

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

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

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

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

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; and

WHEREAS, schools 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; and

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; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, its students and staff stand with the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the nation in demanding effective and comprehensive action from the federal government to protect schoolchildren; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, calls on the Congress of the United States to ban the manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, and use of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition cartridges, except those needed by the military and law enforcement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, calls on the Congress of the United States to require and strengthen universal background checks to possess any type of firearm; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, 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 America; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, is opposed to the arming of teachers to protect schools and children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, calls on the Congress of the United States to extend the perimeter of Gun-Free School Zones; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds to allow school districts across the nation to plan and coordinate school security efforts with law enforcement officials and make other building alterations that may be necessary to protect students, teachers, and staff; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, calls on the Congress of the United States to appropriate adequate new funds to increase the numbers of counselors, mental health staff, psychologists, and social workers in our schools; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board of Broward County, Florida, calls on the Congress of the United States to require that states and the federal government collect whatever data necessary to track, monitor, understand, and prevent the extent of gun violence in America.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 6th day of March, 2018
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY:

Nora Rupert, Chair

ATTEST:

Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools