

Appendix 1: Generic resolution language.

[DISTRICT]

[BOARD]

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A **RESOLUTION** of the [BOARD] of the [DISTRICT] to reaffirm its commitment to a safe and secure learning and working environment, and declare its opposition to proposals to arm educators and education support professionals.

[1] *Recitations of relevant state laws as appropriate – see Appendix 2 for state-specific examples.*

WHEREAS, the [BOARD] is committed to ensuring the safety of its students and staff, [*quote from and/or cite to relevant Board policy or policies as appropriate*]; and

WHEREAS, gun violence presents a clear and present danger to the District’s students, educators, para-educators, support staff, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, gun violence and the threat of gun violence is utterly incompatible with the District’s legal and moral obligation to provide a safe and secure learning and working environment for the District’s students and employees; and

WHEREAS, educators and education support professionals are first and foremost educators, trained, focused, and dedicated to educating and supporting the District’s students, not to providing law enforcement, security, or paramilitary services; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida, in which seventeen students and school staff were killed and seventeen other injured, there have been calls for the arming of public educators as a school safety measure; and

[2] *Recitations of relevant state laws as appropriate – see Appendix 2 for state-specific examples.*

WHEREAS, federal law generally prohibits the possession of firearms in school zones, including but not limited to school properties, except in the case of law enforcement personnel and with other limited exceptions, 18 U.S.C. § 922(q)(2)(A); and

WHEREAS, the [BOARD] likewise already prohibits firearms on District school properties, [*cite to relevant Board policy or policies, or omit entirely, as appropriate*]; and

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WHEREAS, the [BOARD] believes that the arming of educators and education support professionals is fundamentally incompatible with our collective mission of educating and nurturing all students in a safe and secure environment; and

WHEREAS, there is no evidence that arming educators and education support professionals and thereby increasing the number of firearms on school properties would increase school safety; and

WHEREAS, to the contrary, there is every reason to believe that arming educators and education support professionals would decrease school safety because of the possibility of accidental or intentional discharge of a firearm, or the loss or theft of a firearm, because these occur even in the case of highly trained and skilled professional peace officers; and

WHEREAS, even professional peace officers hit their target when firing a firearm less than 20% of the time, and armed educators and education support professionals, who lack the comprehensive and ongoing firearms training provided to professional peace officers, are almost certain to be even less accurate, thereby increasing the risks to innocent students and staff in an active shooter scenario; and

WHEREAS, the arming of educators and education support professionals would necessarily come at considerable financial cost to the District, including but certainly not limited to increased insurance costs, thereby reducing the resources available for the District's primary function of educating our students; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies, including the Departments of Education, Justice, and Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in a careful and comprehensive advisory on school emergency preparedness, emphasized that the possibility of school gun violence did not in any way justify the arming of school personnel other than trained law enforcement officers;¹ and

WHEREAS, those law enforcement officers entrusted with securing the safety of the Nation's schools have publicly and emphatically opposed the arming of public school educators and education support professionals because of the inherent and unavoidable risks to students, educators, school staff, and law enforcement personnel;² and

¹ U.S. Department of Educ., et al., Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans (2013), available at https://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_K-12_Guide_508.pdf.

² National Association of School Resource Officers, "NASRO opposes arming teachers" (2018), available at <https://nasro.org/news/press-releases/nasro-opposes-arming-teachers/>.

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WHEREAS, the Council of the Great City Schools, representing seventy of the Nation’s largest urban public school systems serving more than 7 million students, has likewise expressed its opposition to proposals to arm educators;³ and

WHEREAS, preeminent national educator associations—including the American School Counselor Association, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of School Psychologists, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the School Social Work Association of America—have gone on record to “caution against seemingly quick and potentially harmful solutions, such as arming school personnel” which would “cause more harm than good”⁴; and

WHEREAS, the [LOCAL AFFILIATE], speaking on behalf of the District’s [CERTIFIED / CERTIFICATED] staff, agrees that proposals to arm its members are flawed and potentially dangerous, in which position it is joined by both its State affiliate, the [STATE AFFILIATE] and its National affiliate, the National Education Association;

[3] *Resolutions – see Appendix 2 for state-specific examples.*

ADOPTED this ___ day of ___, 2018.

³ Council of the Great City Schools, Resolution Relating to School Shootings (2018), available at (<https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/4/Guns%20Resolution.pdf>)

⁴ Cowan, K.C. et al., *A Framework for Safe and Successful Schools* (2013), available at <http://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/a-framework-for-safe-and-successful-schools>.