

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, it is the right of every student to be educated in an environment that is safe from the threat of gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**; it is the right of every school district employee to work in an environment that is safe from the threat of gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, our nation's schools and colleges have increasingly become targets for violent attacks by individuals with semi-automatic rifles, resulting in nearly 150 deaths since 1999, including 17 students and adults on February 14, 2018 in Parkland, FL; and

**WHEREAS**, these violent attacks have resulted in severe disruption to students' emotional well-being and to their educational settings; and

**WHEREAS**, the tragic impacts of gun violence on school campuses and communities were felt in our own community on June 7, 2013, when five individuals were killed by a lone gunman with an assault rifle in and around Santa Monica College; and

**WHEREAS**, federal regulations of potentially dangerous products, such as automobiles, alcohol and tobacco, have resulted in a significant decrease in injury and violent deaths from misuse of those products; and

**WHEREAS**, in states and nations where access to firearms and ammunition is more stringently regulated, acts of violence and incidences of death due to firearms have been substantially reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, assault-style weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines are not suitable for civilian use of any type; and

**WHEREAS**, we elect representatives to enact laws that promote public health and safety; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, stands with students, parents, and educators in all 50 states, reaffirms and demands that all students have the right to attend schools that are safe from the threat of gun violence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to ongoing review and improvement of school safety plans and emergency preparedness and to continuing to work with our partners at the Santa Monica Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and elsewhere to address the threats of gun violence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we will communicate to our duly elected state and federal legislators our position that removal of semi-automatic weapons from our civil society is a necessary, crucial, and urgent step in ensuring the safety of our students and staff; and

*(continued on next page)*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we believe it is incumbent upon our duly elected state and federal legislators to:

- pass legislation to protect our school children and all members of our community by outlawing the manufacture, sale, use, or storage of semi-automatic weapons, high-capacity ammunition magazines, and other lethally-enhancing devices;
- pass legislation that, at a minimum, requires background checks for all purchases of guns and ammunition, raises the age to purchase such to 21, denies those with violence protection orders to purchase such, eliminates access to firearms for individuals who through mental health diagnoses could be considered a danger to themselves and others, requires separate storage for such with separate locks, outlaws straw purchases, limits the number of guns and rounds of ammunition that an individual can purchase annually, funds the development of smart gun technology, and funds buyback programs for all guns and ammunition, creates a waiting period before all gun purchases, eliminates loopholes in avenues to gun purchases;
- adequately fund our schools to hire additional psychologists, mental health coordinators, nurses, counselors, and social workers to support student mental health and wellbeing to ensure students are receiving the support they need to be able to engage in their education; and
- adequately fund our schools to expand existing trainings, including threat assessment, and interventions for at-risk students and continued bullying prevention programs.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2018 by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

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Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein  
Board President

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Dr. Ben Drati  
Superintendent