

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Education of Bloomfield Hills Schools, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, held on the 16th day of December, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Members Baron, Efros, Kolin, Kumar, Matlow, Southward, VanGemert

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GUN SAFETY AND SAFE GUN STORAGE

WHEREAS, The safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is a top priority in Bloomfield Hills Schools;

WHEREAS, In Michigan, gun violence is the second leading cause of death in children and teens;

WHEREAS, Rates of death from firearms among ages 14 to 17 are now 22.5% higher than motor vehicle-related death rates. In the U.S., middle and high school age children are now more likely to die as the result of a firearm injury than from any other single cause of death.¹

WHEREAS, According to a report from the US Secret Service, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 76% of attackers acquired a firearm from the home of a parent or another close relative.²

WHEREAS, Every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else.³

WHEREAS, Nearly 22,000 Americans die by firearm suicide every year — including over 950 children and teens.⁴

WHEREAS, Research indicates that 47% of firearm owners who have children living in their homes do not safely store at least one of their weapons.⁵

WHEREAS, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep our community safe;⁶

WHEREAS, Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders within our school district;

WHEREAS, In order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now; now therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to periodically disseminate material on an annual basis stressing the importance of secure storage of firearms and by including this annual notification material resolution in the online registration packet requiring parent or guardian acknowledgement of receipt with those other annual notifications that are distributed to all school district students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Superintendent to periodically communicate the importance of safe firearm storage and other firearm safety and violence prevention measures to the district during gun violence awareness month and at other appropriate times and be it finally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board and Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, medical and mental health agencies and non-profit organizations to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes, as well as other gun violence prevention safety measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall not be construed to conflict with any existing Michigan or federal law.

AYES: Members Baron, Efros, Kolin, Kumar, Matlow, Southward, VanGemert

NAYS:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



John VanGemert, Secretary, Board of Education

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Education of Bloomfield Hills Schools, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of December, 2021, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.



John VanGemert, Secretary, Board of Education

1. <https://labblog.uofmhealth.org/lab-report/facts-on-us-children-and-teens-killed-by-firearms>
2. https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf
3. <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/>
4. <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-rise-of-firearm-suicide-among-young-americans/>
5. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/06/Guns-Report-FOR-WEBSITE-PDF-6-21.pdf>
6. David C. Grossman et al., "Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Firearm Injuries," JAMA 293, no. 6 (2005): 707–14,