

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GUN SAFETY AND SAFE GUN STORAGE

At a regular meeting of the Board of Education of the West Bloomfield School District, West Bloomfield, Michigan (the "District") held on the 21st day of March, 2022 at 7:00 PM at West Bloomfield High School.

PRESENT: Members Brickman, Hersh, Beaty, Ferguson, Finkelstein, Forhan and Evans

ABSENT: Members _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Beaty and supported by Member Ferguson.

WHEREAS, the safety and wellbeing of our students, teachers and staff is a top priority in the West Bloomfield School District; and

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

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⁾; and

WHEREAS, according to a report from the U.S. 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⁾; and

WHEREAS, every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else ⁽³⁾; and

WHEREAS, nearly 22,000 Americans die by firearm suicide every year – including over 960 children and teens ⁽⁴⁾; and

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⁾; and

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

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; and

WHEREAS, local and county law enforcement agencies provide free gun locks to residents; and

WHEREAS, we must act now in order to increase student and school safety;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education directs the Superintendent and staff to distribute material on an annual basis that stresses the importance of secure storage of firearms, by including this notification material in the annual online registration packet and requiring that the parent or guardian acknowledge receipt with the other annual notifications that are distributed to all students in the District; and

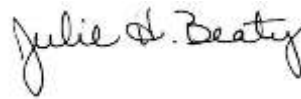
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to communicate the importance of safe firearm storage and other firearm safety and violence prevention measures to the District annually during the month of June, which Congress has designated as National Gun Violence Awareness Month and at other appropriate times; and

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 and increase efforts to inform District parents and guardians of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes, as well as other gun violence prevention and safety measures; and finally

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sole purpose of this Resolution is to bring awareness, education, and support to gun safety and shall not be construed to conflict with any existing Michigan or Federal law or the right to bear arms.

AYES: Members Brickman, Hersh, Beaty, Ferguson, Finkelstein, Forhan, Evans

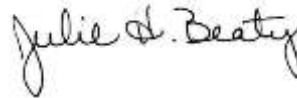
NAYS: Members _____



THE RESOLUTION IS DECLARED ADOPTED.

Julie Beaty, Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned, duly qualified Secretary of the West Bloomfield School District Board of Education, West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by said Board of Education at its regular meeting held on March 21, 2022, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (1976 PA 267, as amended).



Julie Beaty, 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