

Resolution Opposing Ohio HB 99 and Clarifying Restrictions on Guns in Our Schools

The Board of Education of the Berea City School District, held a public meeting, at Berea-Midpark High School, 165 E. Bagley Rd., Berea, Ohio 44017 at 6:00 p.m. on July 11, 2022, with the following members in attendance:

 Ana Chapman

 Cori Farris

 Rick Mack

 Neal Postel

 Heather Zirke

 Farris

 moved and

 Zirke

seconded the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas, the Berea City School District Board of Education is dedicated to assuring school safety and security for our students, staff and community; and

Whereas, despite opposition from law enforcement, the Ohio Federation of Teachers, the Ohio Education Association, and numerous other individuals and groups concerned with the safety of our schools and our children who testified against it, Ohio House Bill 99 was enacted and signed into law by Governor DeWine on June 13, 2022; and

Whereas, this ill-advised legislation is a transparent effort to expand the use of guns by school personnel while nevertheless dramatically reducing the requirements for gun safety training; and

Whereas, the Board believes that the presence of armed individuals who are not members of law enforcement or fully trained security personnel would create a dangerous environment in our schools; and

Whereas, the Board has established alignment with and enjoys a strong supportive relationship with the police departments of Berea, Brook Park and Middleburg Heights and the dedicated men and women in those departments who serve our communities and our schools; and

Whereas, the District has, through agreements with law enforcement and our city government partners in Berea, Brook Park and Middleburg Heights, engaged the services of school resource officers in each of our school buildings; and

Whereas, current District policies appropriately prohibit weapons from school grounds with the exception of law enforcement and security personnel, “or other designated staff employed by the Board who are qualified under State law to carry a weapon in a school safety zone while on active duty,” and

Whereas, the Board has not designated any such staff members to possess firearms while on active duty or otherwise;

Resolved, that despite the misguided efforts of the General Assembly in HB 99, the Board of Education of the Berea City School District declares that it will not exercise the option to expand the number of persons permitted to carry or possess firearms on District premises and/or school activities beyond federal or state law enforcement agents acting within the scope of their duties.

Resolved, further, that the Board President is authorized and directed to issue a statement in conjunction with the Berea Federation of Teachers and the Ohio Association of Public School Employees in support of this action and the safety and security of our students and staff and in opposition to the legislation and the concept of arming teachers and staff.

Ayes: Farris Chapman Zirke

Mack

Abstain: Postel

Ana Chapman

Ana Chapman, Board of Education President

Tracy Wheeler

Tracy Wheeler, Superintendent

Jill A. Rowe

Jill Rowe, Treasurer/CFO