



**RESOLUTION #24-58
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, safeguarding students, teachers, and staff from gun violence is a shared responsibility of all adults in our community; and

WHEREAS, gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the United States. Guns kill more than 48,000 people per year, and firearm injuries were among the five leading causes of death in the U.S. among people ages one to forty-four (American Public Health Association, 2024); and

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for children under 18 years of age in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, each day 12 children in the U.S. die from gun violence and another 32 are shot and injured; and

WHEREAS, it is now estimated that there are approximately 393,000,000 firearms in civilian hands in the United States as of 2023, meaning that firearms now outnumber people in our county; and

WHEREAS, modern technology and capabilities, including semiautomatic firing mechanisms, capacity, range, accuracy, and use of specialize ammunition, of the firearms commercially available today make them far more lethal than anything the founders could have imagined in the 18th century, when most weapons needed to be reloaded after every shot; and

WHEREAS, gun safety laws are proven to lessen the scourge of gun violence, as evidenced by the fact that since some of California's most significant gun safety laws took effect in the early 1990s, California has cut its rate of gun death in half, and the state's gun death rate is 389 percent lower than the national average as of 2023; and

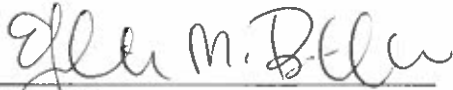
WHEREAS, the rising threat of gun violence has struck at the heart of the shared ideal of providing a future for our youth through education, tragic attacks on schools, including school shootings at Columbine High School in 1999, the Sandy Hook Elementary massacre in 2012, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mass shooting in 2018, and 46 of them in the year 2022—more than in any year since 1999; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security research shows that knowing the signs of gun violence can help prevent it and reverse the trend through reporting to trusted adults and law enforcement agencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to continue to educate families, students, and staff on gun violence prevention and the related school safety and supportive measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that drills to increase awareness about and preparation in response to events involving gun violence will be held to increase safety in our schools and community.

Adopted: 10/9/24



Elizabeth M. Botello, M.J., M.Ed.
President, Board of Trustees
Oxnard Union High School District



Tom McCoy, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Oxnard Union High School District