

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Independent School District No. 13
Columbia Heights, Minnesota

Member Palmer introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolution directing the Administration to Inform Parents and Guardians About Safe Gun Storage

Whereas, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

Whereas, An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

Whereas, Every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;

Whereas, Another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member;

Whereas, In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends;

Whereas, Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

Whereas, The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes;

Whereas, Across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

Whereas, Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence is a priority at each of our school sites;

Whereas, State law requires adults to securely store their firearms where a child is likely to gain access to the firearm;

Now therefore, be it Resolved, That the Board directs the Superintendent and Administration to inform parents and guardians through multiple means of communication including, but not limited to, the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, about their legal obligations regarding the secure storage of firearms, the importance of secure gun storage and the legal obligations to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns;

Be it further Resolved, That the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, local agencies and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents or guardians of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Pettway

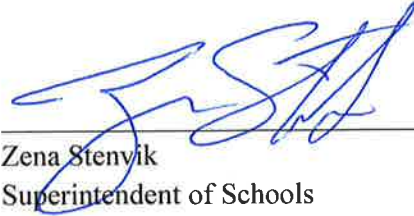
and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Granlund- Aye, Houle- Aye, Medearis- Aye, Mueller-Aye, Palmer-Aye, Pettway-Aye

and the following voted against the same: None.

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.



Lorien Mueller
School Board Chair



Zena Stenvik
Superintendent of Schools

Date: February 20, 2024