A Resolution of the Board of Education of the Maplewood Richmond Heights (MRH) School District to Declare Support for Secure Firearms Storage

Whereas, Gun violence, and threats of gun violence, in schools undermine the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environment;

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. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, 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, School districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices;

Whereas, Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

Whereas, In order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the Maplewood Richmond Heights School District will take the following actions to protect students and staff, including:

1. Update the Student Handbook to include information about the secure storage of firearms;
2. Create an appropriate letter to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure gun storage to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns, to be included in annual registration materials at each school site, and requiring a signature acknowledging awareness of secure gun storage responsibilities;
3. Work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and nonprofits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents about secure storage of firearms in their homes;
4. Create a Board legislative advocacy committee to work collaboratively with local legislators to influence legislation outlined in the resolution on sensible Gun Safety legislation;
5. Utilize current budget allocations to support programs and school staffing (e.g. social workers, counselors, nurses, SEL staff that support student mental health and social-emotional well-being and learning);
6. Establish a designated "Firearms Violence Prevention Week" featuring an awareness campaign directed District-wide; and
7. Review and revise school safety plans as necessary, to include emergency preparedness.

Adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.

Brandi Herndon-Miller, President

Amber Withycombe, Vice President

Maria Langston, Secretary

Rachel Goltzman, Treasurer

Katie Kaufmann, Director

Linda Robinson, Director

Aany Tazmin-Ewing, Director