

Resolution No. 6022 – Safety

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Evergreen School District No. 114, Clark County, Vancouver, Washington to declare support for improved school safety measures, declare support for students appropriately advocating for change, and declare support of the March for Our Lives on March 24, 2018.

WHEREAS, providing a safe school environment that ensures both the physical and emotional safety of students and staff creates the conditions necessary to foster academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, safe schools provide an environment where teaching and learning are not distracted; disruptions are minimized; drugs, violence, bullying and fear are not present; students are not discriminated against; expectations for behavior are clearly communicated and standards of behavior are maintained; and student are taught to take ownership of their actions including the reparation of any harm done; and

WHEREAS, school violence presents a clear and present danger to the students, parents, educators, paraeducators, administrators, and support staff of the Evergreen School District; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, there have been 291 shootings on elementary, middle, and high school and college campuses in the United States which averages to about one per week,¹ and 168 of those shootings were at K-12 schools;² and

WHEREAS, in the past five years, eight school shootings have occurred in Washington state, four of which resulted in injury or death,³ and facilities in the Evergreen School District, and districts around Washington State, have far too often been the scenes of gun violence and threats of gun violence; and

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

WHEREAS, the most effective approach to creating safe school environment requires a comprehensive, coordinated effort including schoolwide, districtwide, and communitywide strategies where all institutions, organizations and individuals must

accept responsibility for their critical roles and collaborate to establish a positive environment for teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, Evergreen School Board Results Policy states an outcome where “Students understand, model, and advance the interconnectedness of individuals, cultures, communities and their environment” and specifically that “students will understand how to appropriately advocate for change”; and

WHEREAS, students have seized the conscience of the nation with their demand for strong action to reduce preventable gun violence and on March 24, 2018, a National March for Our Lives will be held by student leaders seeking to deliver an unmistakable message that now is the time to pass commonsense gun safety laws; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Board of Directors that Evergreen and Washington State must be national leaders in innovative and meaningful policy to confront school violence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Evergreen School Board supports prevention, intervention and community re-entry programs that reduce community and gun violence; and encourages the state to consider increased funding for programs and school staffing (i.e. counselors, nurses, and psychologists) that support student mental health, social and emotional learning, and anti-bullying; and therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Evergreen School District will continue to work with a broad spectrum of local community stakeholders, local law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, students, teachers and staff to develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive school climate, free from harassment and violence; and therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Evergreen School District encourages Evergreen School District students to seek out appropriate ways to communicate, lobby and make their feelings on school safety known to those elected officials with the power to implement change; and therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Evergreen School District wholly endorses the student led March for Our Lives on March 24, 2018.

ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2018

_____ Director Todd Yuzuriha, President

_____ Director Rob Perkins, Vice President

_____ Director Victoria Bradford

_____ Director Julie Bocanegra

_____ Director Ginny Gronwoldt

ATTEST:

Dr. John Steach, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Evergreen School District No. 114
Clark County, Washington
March 13, 2018

¹ Everytown for Gun Safety; School Shootings in America Since 2013. February 2018, <https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>.

² Everytown for Gun Safety; Keep Guns Out of Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; February 2018; <https://everytownresearch.org/guns-in-elementary-middle-and-high-schools>.

³ Everytown for Gun Safety; 291 School Shootings in America since 2013; <https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/#2919>