

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ACTION AND LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF OUR SCHOOLS

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE CHELTENHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

JUNE 14, 2022

WHEREAS, schools are places of learning, providing the foundation for a successful life; and whereas students, teachers, and staff deserve a safe place for learning, teaching, and exploration, free from the threats of gun violence. Our schools should be sanctuaries and our resources and energy should be focused on administering a quality, equitable education to every child.

WHEREAS, Cheltenham School District has adopted policies that strictly prohibit weapons, including but not limited to, guns in our district schools and at school-sponsored events.

WHEREAS, due to the continuing epidemic of gun violence in our nation's schools and on the heels of the May 24, 2022, attack at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, we join in the call for an end to gun violence in our schools and communities.

WHEREAS, we support proven measures to reduce and deter incidents of gun violence in our schools and communities, including secure gun storage practices as an effective strategy, among other common-sense policies to keep schools, students and staff safe;

WHEREAS, across the country, lawmakers, community members and local leaders are working to implement public awareness campaigns which encourage secure gun storage practices and highlight the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

WHEREAS, we recognize and support the students in Cheltenham who have activated, organized, and engaged in a call to Cheltenham School District to improve their safety by requesting that the district proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage practices;

WHEREAS, as a Board, we will provide oversight in working to ensure that Cheltenham School District facilities provide safe and healthy environments for students, teachers, other staff and visitors to our buildings.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent will send an appropriate letter to parents and guardians reminding them of our policy prohibiting guns on school property and school-sponsored events, that explains the importance of secure gun storage to protect minors from accessing firearms, and includes resources and information to help families obtain secure gun storage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order for our schools to be safe havens, free from the threats of gun violence, that the Board of School Directors of the Cheltenham School District call upon Congress and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to create and implement research-based regulations on the sale and secure possession of guns that will reduce gun violence.