

# ***Resolution***

## **Guilford County Board of Education**

### **Relating to School Shootings in the United States**

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Guilford County Board of Education (the Board) to express its position on school safety matters that affect our students and the children residing in our cities, county and communities;

WHEREAS, our more than 73,000 students and their families and our more than 10,000 educators and employees are deeply concerned about the prevalence of school shootings across the United States and deserve to learn and work in safe schools and district facilities;

WHEREAS, thousands of our students have publicly expressed concern for their safety and well-being and have indicated that policymakers should act to protect them in school and beyond;

WHEREAS, the Guilford County Board of Education respects the concerns of our students, and supports the growing civic and social participation of high school students that was inspired by recent events;

WHEREAS, safe schools and work environments are foundational to the learning process for children and essential to the effective and efficient operations of the Guilford County Schools (GCS);

WHEREAS, maintaining safe schools and work environments for our GCS students, employees, parents and visitors represents a shared responsibility among other governmental agencies and elected bodies;

WHEREAS, the Board and District Administration are deeply concerned about the increase in gun violence and deaths in our neighborhoods, cities, county, state and nation;

WHEREAS, teachers and other school personnel are not sworn law enforcement officers, and should not be asked, or incentivized, to keep guns or other weapons accessible in their classrooms or on their persons, regardless of any training provided;

WHEREAS, schools across the country need considerable additional resources to plan for the possibility of acts of violence, coordinate with law enforcement, secure their buildings from intruders, upgrade safety-related technologies, provide more training for school and district employees; add safety/security-related school personnel, and behavioral health providers;

WHEREAS, GCS currently does not receive adequate funding for mental health counselors, psychologists and social workers to identify and provide therapeutic services and supports to students showing warning signs for isolation, anger, depression and violence;

WHEREAS, GCS educators and families frequently voice concern about the difficulty of assisting families in finding appropriate mental health care and services for their children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guilford County Board of Education, stands with our students, staff and parents, and all those nationwide asking for effective and comprehensive action from the federal government and the State of North Carolina to protect schoolchildren;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Board of Education opposes legislative proposals to arm teachers or other school personnel;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Board of Education calls on the Congress of the United States and the North Carolina General Assembly to require and to strengthen background checks for all gun purchases, enforce current laws, and restrict access to assault rifles, bump stocks and military-style weaponry to law enforcement and the military;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Board of Education calls on the Congress of the United States and the North Carolina General Assembly to appropriate new funding for GCS and other public school systems to secure its facilities, upgrade safety-related technologies, provide more training for school and district employees, add safety/security-related school personnel, and coordinate with law enforcement, emergency responders and behavioral health providers;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Board of Education calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to appropriate new funds to increase the numbers of counselors, mental health staff, psychologists, and social workers in our public schools;

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guilford County Board of Education calls on the Congress of the United States to investigate the current status of the nation's mental health system, and to make adjustments as needed to provide adequate funding for mental health services;

In witness thereof, this twenty-second day of March 2018, signed:

Alan W. Duncan  
Chairman, Board of Education

Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools