Resolution in Support of Secure Storage Guardian Notification

WHEREAS, Denver Public Schools (DPS) serves more than 93,000 students and employs more than 15,000 full time and part time team members throughout the city & county of Denver; and

WHEREAS, the safety and wellbeing of our students and team members is our top priority every day; and

WHEREAS, evidence strongly suggests that educating parents on secure firearm storage in their homes is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm; and

WHEREAS, every year here in the United States, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That’s roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 77 percent of these incidents take place inside a home; and

WHEREAS, another 590 children die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member; and

WHEREAS, national research on incidents of gun violence on school grounds shows that active shooters are more often current students or recent graduates, and that the majority obtained their guns from their own home, a relative’s home, or from friends;¹ and

WHEREAS, national research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to a 78 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries² and an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;³ and


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;⁴ and

WHEREAS, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America’s 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 should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders in our community and

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 DPS Board of Education (the Board) directs the Superintendent to update the DPS Handbook for Families & Students to include information about the secure storage of firearms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate communication, in English and Spanish, to parents and guardians that addresses student safety and wellbeing, including the importance of secure gun storage to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns and to share this communication with all district families as part of back to school activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents about secure storage of firearms in their homes.

Approved this 23rd day of January 2020.

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Carrie A. Olson, PhD, Board President   Tay Anderson, Secretary