

A Resolution of the Board of Education of the Maplewood Richmond Heights (MRH) School District to Declare Support for Sensible Gun Safety Legislation

Whereas the MRH School District pledges to maintain safe and inspirational spaces for students and staff;

Whereas gun violence and threats of same undermine the sense of security that all students and employees deserve within a learning environment;

Whereas since the attack in Columbine in 1999, there have been numerous mass shootings across the country in which domestic terrorists have used military-styled assault weapons to murder children and adults in school buildings, churches, theaters and shopping centers;

Whereas Missouri has the 6th-highest rate of gun violence in the nation, with nearly 4,000 people each year being killed or wounded by guns;

Whereas Missouri continues to face high levels of gun suicides, with most of the gun deaths in the state being by suicide;

Whereas St. Louis's two leading children's hospitals treated more young people with gunshot wounds in 2020 than they had for any other calendar year on record;

Whereas students have seized upon the national conscience with their calls for strong action to reduce preventable gun violence and to deliver an unmistakable message that now is the time to pass common sense gun safety laws;

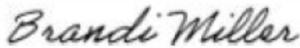
Whereas sensible gun safety legislation will strengthen protections for our schools and students by preventing dangerous individuals from attaining firearms; and

Whereas it is the belief of the Board of Education of the MRH School District that we must be leaders in innovative and meaningful policy to confront gun violence.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the MRH Board of Education, in conjunction and solidarity with the City of Maplewood, Missouri, supports sensible gun safety legislation to protect students and staff, including:

1. Implementing enhanced background checks for assault weapons including raising the age to 21 to purchase assault weapons;
2. Strengthening universal background checks for the purchase of firearms;
3. Banning the purchase of semi-automatic rifles and of any accessories designed to increase a gun's rate of fire (i.e. "bump stocks");
4. Banning gun sales to domestic violence offenders;
5. Preventing access to firearms for individuals who through mental health evaluation or diagnosis could be considered a danger to themselves or others;
6. Passing laws that require people to store firearms securely to prevent unsupervised access to those firearms;
7. Passing an Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, a "red flag" bill, to allow relatives and law enforcement to temporarily remove firearms from an individual in crisis;
8. Recognizing that arming teachers is not an effective strategy for preventing gun violence in schools;
9. Increasing funding for programs and school staffing (e.g., social workers, counselors, nurses and psychologists) that support student mental health and social-emotional well-being and learning;
10. And providing funding for thorough gun violence research including the collection of data necessary to track, monitor, understand and prevent the extent of gun violence in America.

Adopted this 28th day of June, 2022.



Brandi Herndon-Miller, President



Amber Withycombe, Vice President



Maria Langston, Secretary



Rachel Goltzman, Treasurer



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