

RESOLUTION 2223-08

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE PETALUMA CITY (ELEMENTARY) AND PETALUMA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR SAFE STORAGE PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

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

WHEREAS, every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, equating to roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;

WHEREAS, another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member;

WHEREAS, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends;

WHEREAS, research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

WHEREAS, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the 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, school districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices;

WHEREAS, keeping students, teachers, and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

WHEREAS, California State Law (AB 452) requires adults to securely store their firearms where a child is likely to gain access to the firearm;

WHEREAS, starting on or before July 1, 2023, California State law (AB 452) requires school districts to notify families of the requirement to securely store their firearms;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook (Data Confirmation) to include information about parents' legal obligations regarding the secure storage of firearms;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, and non-profit organizations to inform District parents of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.

The foregoing resolution was introduced by Board Member _____ who moved its adoption, seconded by Member _____ and adopted on roll call by the following vote:

CLOUD: _____ GEN: _____ PAUN: _____ QUINN: _____ WEBSTER: _____

WHEREUPON, the President declared the above resolution adopted and **SO ORDERED** this 11th day of October, 2022.

Joanna Paun, President Board of Education

ATTEST:

Matthew Harris, Secretary