

## **AZ SCHOOL BOARD SECURE STORAGE NOTIFICATION RESOLUTION**

**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, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That is roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 77 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;

**WHEREAS**, fourteen children die by gun suicide each year in Arizona. Research shows that the guns used in these tragedies usually belong 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 78 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 self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

**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;

**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 at each of our school sites;

**WHEREAS**, in order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now; now therefore, be it

**THEREFORE**, let it be resolved that the Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook to include information about

the secure storage of firearms;

**THEREFORE**, let it be resolved that the Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate letter, in English and Spanish, to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure gun storage to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns, and may be included in annual registration materials at each school site; and, be it finally;

**THEREFORE**, let it be resolved that the Phoenix Union High School District Governing 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.

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020, the Governing Board voted at a duly called meeting at which a quorum

was present with in favor, \_\_\_\_\_against, \_\_\_\_\_abstained from the above Resolution.

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Stephanie Parra, Governing Board President

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Lela Alston, Governing Board Clerk