

## **PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 17-2022-23**

#### **RESOLUTION TO DECLARE GUN VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**WHEREAS**, The safety and well-being of our students, teachers, staff, and community is a top priority of Piedmont Unified School District;

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, an estimated 3 MILLION children are exposed to shootings each year, an estimated 15,000 children and teens are shot and injured each year, and an estimated 3,500 children and teens are shot and killed each year.

**WHEREAS**, Rates of death from firearms among ages 14 to 17 are now 22.5% higher than motor vehicle-related deaths. In the U.S., middle and high school age children are now more likely to die as a result of a firearm injury than from any other single cause of death.<sup>i</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Black youth are four times more likely to be killed than their white peers and Hispanic and Indigenous people are more than twice as likely to die by gun violence than white people;

**WHEREAS**, According to a report from the US Secret Service, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 76% of attackers acquired a firearm from the home of a parent or another close relative.<sup>ii</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Nearly 22,000 Americans die by firearm suicide every year – including over 950 children and teens.<sup>iii</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep our community safe;

**WHEREAS**, Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence is the responsibility of all adult stakeholders within our school district;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education directs that:

1. The Board hereby declares that gun violence is a public health crisis that adversely impacts our students, our teachers, our families, and our communities.
2. The Board directs the Superintendent to periodically disseminate material on an annual basis stressing the importance of secure storage of firearms and by including this material on an annual basis in the registration packet requiring parent or guardian acknowledgment of receipt with those other annual notifications that are distributed to all school district students;
3. The Board directs the Superintendent to periodically communicate the importance of safe firearm storage and other firearm safety and violence prevention measures to the district during gun violence awareness month and at other appropriate times.

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, by the Board of Education of the Piedmont Unified School District at its regular meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, 2023.

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Veronica Anderson Thigpen, President  
Piedmont Unified School District  
Board of Education

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Donald Evans, Ed.D., Secretary  
Piedmont Unified School District  
Board of Education

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<sup>i</sup> <https://labblog.uofmhealth.org/lab-report/facts-on-us-children-and-teens-killed-by-firearms>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting\\_Americas\\_Schools.pdf](https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-rise-of-firearm-suicide-among-young-americans/>