

RESOLUTION URGING ACTION TO PROTECT YOUTH FROM GUN VIOLENCE

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2301-2**

WHEREAS, gun violence is now the number one cause of death for children and teenagers, surpassing car accidents, and is a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, gun violence, and threats of gun violence, in schools undermine the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments; and

WHEREAS, since the 1999 Columbine school shooting more than 292,000 students have experienced gun violence at their schools. As of May 24, 2022 there have been 27 school shootings in the United States; and

WHEREAS, more guns result in more homicides and suicides and a recent Centers for Disease Control Study found that 229 youth in our county had committed suicide since 2003. Youth firearm suicide has reached an all-time high in more than 20 years. More than 3,100 youth die by firearm suicide each year; and

WHEREAS, school campuses in California have far too often been the scenes of gun violence and threats of gun violence according the K-12 School Shooting Database from the Center of Homeland Defense and Security, California ranks #1 in school shootings with 157 incidents reported from 2016 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, statistics reporting incidents classified as school shootings did not include incidents where guns were brought into schools but not fired, creating data underestimating the number of guns brought to schools. Access to guns can turn a crisis into a life-ending tragedy for those involved and a life altering incident for families and communities; and

WHEREAS, 75 percent of school shooters use a gun found in the home, and a gun in the home makes it 300 percent more likely that someone living there will lose their life; and

WHEREAS, gun violence presents a clear and present danger to the students, parents, educators,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools strongly urges Congress to take proactive measures to ensure safe schools and communities and prevent gun violence.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on June 8, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: President Ortiz, Vice President Chon and Trustees Kamei, Mah, Rossi, and Sreekrishnan

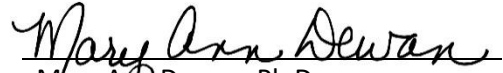
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Trustee Di Salvo



Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools