

**Alum Rock Union Elementary School District
RESOLUTION NO. 63-21/22**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL SAFETY: *PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN AND STAFF*

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2022, 19 students, including Alexandria Rubio (10), Alithia Ramierz (10), Amerie Jo Garza (10), Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez (10), Eliahana Cruz Torres (10), Eliana Garcia (9), Jacklyn Cazares (10), Jailah Nicole Silguero (10), Jayce Luevanos (10), Jose Flores Jr. (10), Layla Salazar (10), Makenna Lee Elrod (10), Maite Rodriguez (10), Maranda Mathis (11), Nevaeh Bravo (10), Rojelio Torres (10), Tess Marie Mata (10), Uziyah Garcia (10), Xavier Lopez (10), and 2 educators, Eva Mireles (44) and Irma Garia were shot and killed by an 18-year old gunman at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas, as well as injuring 16 other young students and adults; and

WHEREAS, the shootings at Robb Elementary are the latest example of the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our communities; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2019, two students, Gracie Muehlberger (15) and Dominic Blackwell (14), were shot and killed by a fellow student gunman at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, with three other young students injured as well, all in a matter of 16 seconds; and

WHEREAS, school shootings have become an all-too-frequent occurrence in modern America. From 2012 and the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, which claimed the lives of 20 first graders, through 2017, the Gun Violence Archive counted 251 shootings at K-12 schools in the United States. In that time, over 350 people were shot and 120 died; and

WHEREAS, according to *Education Week*, from 2018 to the present, there have been 119 school shootings, with 27 school shootings with injuries or death this year so far (2022); and

WHEREAS, our community has been impacted by the act of terrorism and mass shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival on July 28, 2019, which senselessly took the young lives of Stephen Romero (6), Keyla Salazar (13) who was from our very own community, and Trevor Irby (25); and

WHEREAS, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been more than 200 mass shootings in the United States so far this year (231 as of June 1, 2022), with 693 mass shootings in 2021, 611 in 2020, and 417 in 2019; and

WHEREAS, according to the Everytown Gun Safety Support Fund, 73-80% of school shooters obtained the gun(s) from their home or the homes of relatives or friends and that every year, 18,000 children and teens are shot and killed or wounded and approximately 3 million are exposed to gun violence; additionally, "Researchers recently estimated that the number of

children living in households with firearms in the United States increased to 30 million in 2021—up 7 million from 2015;” and

WHEREAS, unsecured guns pose a special risk to children - kids as young as three years old are strong enough to pull a trigger. Findings from the 2021 National Firearm survey indicates that approximately 4.6 million children lived in a home with loaded and unlocked firearms; and

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens (ages 1 to 19) in the United States. Every year, 18,000 children and teens are shot and killed or wounded and approximately 3 million are exposed to gun violence. Furthermore, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that firearm homicide rates are highest among teens and young adults 15-34 years of age and among Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino populations; and

WHEREAS, in California, despite strong gun safety laws and a low gun death rate compared to other states, guns are the third-leading cause of death for California children ages 1–17. From 2013 to 2017, 3,278 people under age 25 were killed with a gun in California; and

WHEREAS, according to the *New England Journal of Medicine*, firearm-related injuries are (as of 2020) the leading cause of death among children and adolescents, accompanied by a 29.5% increase in firearm-related deaths from 2019 to 2020, more than twice as high as the relative increase in the general population; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20% of adults in California possess a firearm, and state and local law criminalizes unsafe storage of firearms where minors may be present. However, while gun stores are required to post flyers that set forth safe storage requirements, there are no dedicated federal resources for educating adults about safe storage of firearms; and

WHEREAS, the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District strives to provide safe havens for our students, teachers, and staff and school safety continues to be one of the District Governing Board's highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, District schools are required to comply with California Education Code Section 32280 et seq., which mandates the preparation of school safety plans; and

WHEREAS, these plans address violence prevention, emergency preparedness, traffic safety and crisis intervention; and

WHEREAS, the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District has committed to maximizing school safety through School Safety Plans at every school, implementing the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, and integrating emergency, crisis and threat assessment teams to help ensure safe school environments across the District; and

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

WHEREAS, in order to continue with preventative measures to increase school safety, we must act now.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District adopts this resolution and directs the Superintendent to assist school administrators in updating their School Safety Plans to include the most current materials and training on detection and prevention of acts of violence in all form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board directs the Superintendent to update the Student Handbook to include the most current information about parents' legal duties to safely store firearms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with City and County agencies, public health agencies and nonprofits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents of their duty to safely store firearms in their homes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board directs the Superintendent to send out a yearly notification to all District parents, community members, and staff on safe firearm storage and the District's commitment to school safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board will direct staff to activate the district wide Safety Task Force by the first regular October Governing Board meeting to conduct a holistic review of safety issues at all District sites and facilities throughout the 2022-23 school year: This Task Force will have an advisory role and will adhere to all established safety protocols as per Ed Code and Board Policy.

- **Safety Task Force Composition:**

- The members of the Safety Task Force will be appointed by the Superintendent and two Trustees and will include at least one representative from each of the District bargaining units, two members of the Governing Board, parents, and teachers, with at least one parent or teacher representative from each school site (there should be an equal or almost equal number of teachers and parents as members of this body);
- The Safety Task Force will intentionally and regularly seek feedback from District parents on committee matters as the Safety Committee deems appropriate;
- The Safety Task Force may or may not combine with the Wellness Committee; and

This body may also include a representative of local law enforcement if the Task Force chooses to include. The Safety Task Force will identify areas of safety to prioritize and investigate, develop a timeline to guide their activities, and utilize the 2022-23 school year to determine short-term and long-term recommendations for the Governing Board, school site leadership, and/or District leadership to consider and help improve safety for our students and staff at every school site and throughout the entire District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board directs the Superintendent and the Safety Task Force to establish a regular Emergency Campus Safety Training led by a qualified third-party to be identified by the Superintendent and the Safety Task Force and approved by the Governing Board that will prepare and train all staff throughout the District in responsive training including but not limited to active shooter situations and other violent or threatening altercations on campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District will not support the arming of certificated and classified school and District staff members with guns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Governing Board recognizes the importance of youth activism and student voice, and therefore supports the discussion on the national implementation of A Peace Plan For A Safer America, developed by the students organizing March for Our Lives to "GENERATE COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS: and funding targeted interventions addressing the intersectional dimensions of gun violence, including community-based urban violence reduction programs, suicide prevention programs, domestic violence prevention programs, mental and behavioral health service programs, and programs to address police violence in our communities;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board urges the United States Congress to prioritize the protection of students and school system employees by passing common sense gun control reform that would help protect students from gun violence, including implementing universal background checks, implementing Extreme Risk Laws also known as 'Red Flag Laws, reinstating the federal assault gun ban, and prohibiting sales of guns to violent criminals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board urges the United States Congress to not only continue but to increase funding for gun violence research by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institute of Health (NIH) to learn how best to protect American families and communities from the devastation of gun violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Board calls upon the State Legislature to increase K-12 funding for wrap-around services to prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in our schools and to provide funding for programs and staff such as counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers that support students' mental, physical and emotional health; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to our Congress Representatives, State Legislators, State Superintendent, State Attorney General and the Governor of the State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District this June 28th, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: