

**Resolution on Gun Violence Prevention
Harrisonburg City School Board
March 6, 2018**

WHEREAS we are local elected officials charged with ensuring the education, health and safety of students on behalf of parents and our community;

WHEREAS all students have the right to attend school and live in a community free from the fear of death or injury as a result of gun related violence;

WHEREAS all teachers and staff have the right to a working environment free from the fear of death or injury as a result of gun related violence;

WHEREAS parents have the right to live in a community and send their children to a school in which they have confidence in their children's physical, psychological and emotional safety;

WHEREAS school children spend increasing time participating in lock-down and active shooter drills, detracting from time spent on classroom learning and invoking significant anxiety and fear that impedes learning;

WHEREAS Harrisonburg City Public Schools believes that the health and safety of our students and employees is our highest priority and that they will strive in a vibrant, healthful, safe, enriching and respectful environment;

WHEREAS Harrisonburg City Public Schools prioritizes improving mental health supports, safety precautions and in-school programming to prevent gun violence from occurring, and;

WHEREAS the responsibility for preventing gun violence incidents cannot be relegated to school districts alone;

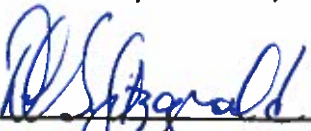
THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Harrisonburg City School Board calls upon the Virginia General Assembly and the United States Congress to prioritize the protection of students and school system employees by passing legislation that more effectively regulates access to firearms in the interest of public safety, funds public health research on firearms related issues, and advances mental health supports, particularly for those vulnerable when it comes to gun

violence both as direct victims and as traumatized by the exposure to the deaths of family members, friends, neighbors, and community members. This includes:


- rigorous enforcement of existing gun laws;
- eliminating inappropriate youth access to guns;
- improving awareness of safe gun practices, including secure storage of firearms;
- restricting the presence of guns in schools to only commissioned and trained police officers;

With gratitude to the parents and students in the City of Harrisonburg who have spoken out on this issue, the Harrisonburg City School Board makes this resolution in support of their voices.

Approved this 6th day of March, 2018 by the Harrisonburg City School Board:



Deb S. Fitzgerald, Chair




Brent L. Holsinger




Kaylene A. Seigle



Andy L. Kohen, Vice Chair



Lauren B. Penrod



Nick D. Swayne