

## **Resolution 1718R-019**

### **By Director Bonds and Director Sain**

WHEREAS, The Milwaukee Public Schools' vision states that "schools will be safe, welcoming, well-maintained, and accessible community centers meeting the needs of all"; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee Public Schools' students and staff have the right to learn and to teach in an environment where they need not worry about the threat of violence; and

WHEREAS, Parents who are required to send their children to school should be able to have confidence in their children's physical, psychological, and emotional safety while at school; and

WHEREAS, Families across the country, including students in Milwaukee Public Schools, publicly have expressed concern for their safety and wellbeing and have made it clear that policymakers must act immediately to protect them in school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, As a locally elected body, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors is charged with ensuring the education, health, and safety of students on behalf of parents and the community; and

WHEREAS, Gun violence presents a clear and present danger to schools and communities; 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, School boards are charged with making local decisions about how best to implement school-safety strategies that reflect the needs of their local communities; and

WHEREAS, There is no viable research to suggest that allowing guns in a school setting or arming teachers would prevent acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, Teachers are not trained law-enforcement officers and should not be asked or incentivized to keep weapons accessible in their classrooms; and

WHEREAS, Legislative leaders at the state and federal levels have not only the ability but also the responsibility to act on behalf of our children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors calls on legislative leaders at the state and federal levels to enact sensible gun-safety legislation that will strengthen protections for our schools and students by preventing dangerous individuals from obtaining firearms; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors does hereby stand opposed to any policy to arm teachers; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors prohibit MPS employees from possessing firearms during assigned work hours or while on district premises; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors prohibit all individuals, including personnel of MPS contractors or subcontractors, from possessing firearms on district premises unless the individual is a sworn law enforcement agent; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration be directed to prioritize funds in the FY 19 budget to ensure that all MPS classrooms are equipped with classroom doors that lock from the inside; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration be directed to provide safety training related to code red situations as part of the district's annual professional development offered at the start of every school year and as part of onboarding for all new employees, including substitute teachers, prior to assignment in MPS classrooms; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration be directed to explore setting up a confidential hotline for students and MPS personnel to report incidents of people with weapons on MPS premises; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors reaffirm its Legislative Agenda, which includes increased authority for funding for school safety and reduction of gun violence as legislative priorities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors call on legislative leaders at the state and federal levels to appropriate adequate new funds to school districts to:

- plan and coordinate school-security efforts with law-enforcement officials and make any alterations to district buildings that may be necessary to protect students, teachers, and staff;
- increase the numbers of counselors, mental health staff, psychologists, and social workers in our schools; and
- educate students and their families on the dangers of firearms; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board direct the MPS Administration, in consultation with the Office of Board Governance, to codify within the District's rules and polices the prohibition of firearms and instruct the Board Clerk to have an engrossed copy of this document, suitably signed and sealed, prepared, and delivered to the Milwaukee delegation of the Wisconsin State Legislature and the Milwaukee Common Council; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That by adopting this resolution, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors echoes the voices of students in Milwaukee Public Schools and across the nation in demanding effective and comprehensive action from the state and federal governments to protect schools and communities.

*March 22, 2018*