



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 07, 2023, Regular Business Meeting

Agenda Item: **X.R. Recommendation for Adoption of a Resolution Supporting the Secure Storage of Firearms**

Recommendation: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education adopt a resolution supporting the secure storage of firearms.

Rationale: Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component of any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe.

This resolution sets forth a number of compelling reasons for the District to support and promote the safe storage of firearms. The resolution directs the District to disseminate information about secure firearm storage to students and families through the Student Support and Behavior Intervention Handbook and to continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents about secure storage of firearms in their homes.

Submitted by: Robert Moore

Attachment

**A Resolution of the Jefferson County Board of Education
Supporting the Secure Storage of Firearms**

WHEREAS, evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm; and

WHEREAS, every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, nearly one unintentional shooting per day, with 70 percent of these incidents taking place inside a home; and

WHEREAS, another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member; and

WHEREAS, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters were current students or recent graduates; and

WHEREAS, research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because 76 percent of school shooters used firearms acquired from the homes of parents or close relatives; and

WHEREAS, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Jefferson County Board of Education, that:

Section 1. The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to update the JCPS Student Support and Behavior Intervention Handbook to include information about the secure storage of firearms.

Section 2. The Board and the Superintendent shall continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents about secure storage of firearms in their homes.

Upon a Motion by Linda Duncan, seconded by James Craig,
this resolution is adopted by the Board on this 7th day of February, 2023.

Attested by Xane Porter, Chair of the
Jefferson County Board of Education.