

Okemos Public Schools Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan

**Resolution: To declare support for gun safety legislation and
opposition to efforts to arm staff in our schools.**

A regular meeting of the board of education of the district was held in the Community Conference Room, in the district, on the 11th day of June, 2018 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Bolton, President.

Present: Members Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Sarah Wohlford

and supported by Melanie Lynn.

Whereas it is the duty of Okemos Public Schools to educate all students in a safe, secure, and supportive environment.

Whereas the increasing numbers of shootings on school grounds combined with the over 300 mass shootings in the nation in 2016 and 2017 contributes to undermine the perception of safety and security in our schools.

Whereas 38,658 people in the United States died from gun violence in 2016¹² and the rate of gun deaths in the United States (3.85 per 100,000 persons in 2016) is 31st highest in the world despite a relatively low violent crime rate and is many times that of nations such as Germany (0.12) and the United Kingdom (0.07)³⁴.

Whereas Okemos School Board Policies already restrict weapons and firearms on school properties.

Whereas many students in our schools have called for strong action to reduce gun violence and to pass commonsense gun safety laws.

Whereas Okemos Public Schools wishes to be known as leaders in education.

Whereas research indicates that gun violence at school facilities often occurs outside of school buildings in areas that are not practical to fully secure.

¹ <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-violence-by-the-numbers/>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/mortality-dashboard.htm#>

³ <http://www.healthdata.org/news-release/new-study-%E2%80%98alarming%E2%80%99-differences-nations%E2%80%99-quality-and-access-health-care>

⁴ <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/11/06/562323131/gun-violence-comparing-the-u-s-with-other-countries>

Whereas data demonstrates that gun violence occurs even in schools with armed resource officers and that the presence of active duty law enforcement in schools correlates to increased severity of punishment of students as well as increased disparities in school discipline by race, economic class, and special education status.

Whereas the Michigan Board of Education is elected statewide to establish school policy on the state level.

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Okemos School Board supports increased funding for programs and school staffing (i.e. counselors, nurses, and psychologists) that support student mental health, social and emotional learning, and anti-bullying

Be it further resolved that the Okemos School Board supports sensible gun safety legislation to protect students and staff

Now, therefore, be it further resolved that the Okemos School Board calls upon the Michigan State Board of Education and the Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction to oppose all guns in all Michigan schools other than those carried by trained law enforcement called to the schools; and be it further resolved the Okemos School Board calls upon the Michigan State Board of Education to take a position to actively oppose any requirements for armed staff in Michigan schools; and be it further resolved that the Okemos School Board calls upon the Michigan State Board of Education to actively oppose open carry in Michigan schools.


Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Dean Bolton, Amy Crites, Melanie Lynn, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Tonya Rodriguez and Sarah Wohlford

Nays:

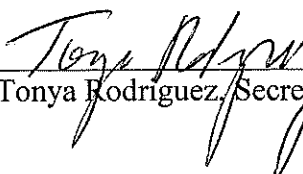
Absent:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary, Okemos Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting secretary of the board of education of Okemos Public Schools, Ingham County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the board of education at a regular meeting held on June 11, 2018, the original of which resolution is a part of the board's minutes and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public in accordance the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.



Tonya Rodriguez, Secretary, Okemos Board of Education