



A RESOLUTION of the Board of Education of the Las Cruces Public Schools, Las Cruces, New Mexico to declare opposition to efforts to arm educators in our schools.

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education believes strongly that teachers and other education personnel play an essential role in ensuring that schools are places of learning and must be sanctuaries where parents and the community know that children are as safe as possible; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of gun violence and the increasing frequency of mass shootings – including school shootings – presents a rising threat to the safety and wellbeing of people throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education is concerned about the hazards associated with individuals possessing firearms on school campuses or any district premises who lack extensive law enforcement training and the sworn authority to enforce public safety.

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education has adopted a policy that allows on-duty law enforcement officials, school resource officers, and, for a bona fide safety reason, grant permission to other school security personnel with the proper license to carry a firearm on school district premises and in school zones; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, some have suggested issuing concealed-carry permits to teachers on school campuses; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of School Psychologists in February of 2018 stated that it strongly opposes arming teachers as a strategy of preventing gun violence on school grounds, and that it joins virtually every other organization representing school and safety professionals in recognizing that arming school staff is wrong because doing so places an unrealistic, unreasonable burden on America's educators, has the potential to cause more harm from unintentional or inaccurate discharge of firearms, and can undermine the sense of safe, supportive learning environments; and

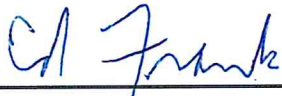
WHEREAS, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the American School Counselor Association, and the School Social Work Association of America, released *A Framework for Safe and Successful Schools* outlining the core components of school safety which includes improving access to school-employed mental health professionals like school psychologists, school counselors, and school social workers, who serve on the frontlines of meeting students' mental health needs and provide threat assessments for students at risk of harming themselves or others.

WHEREAS, since safety is the highest priority of the Las Cruces Public Schools, we have responsibly taken many necessary and important steps to increase student and staff safety without the need to arm our educators.

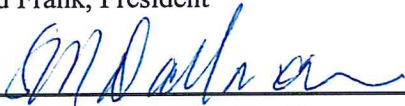
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education wholly rejects any effort to arm educators or instructional support providers in schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports efforts to provide more federal and state funding for mental health services, school psychologists, social workers and school counselors so trained professionals have a better chance of identifying a student in crisis and intervening before tragedy strikes.

Approved by Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education on May 1, 2018.



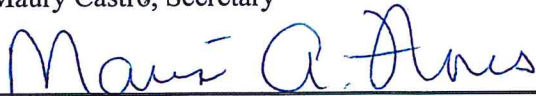
Ed Frank, President



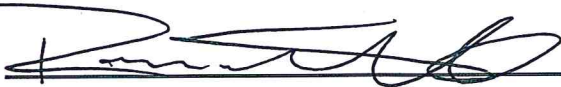
Terrie Dallman, Vice President



Maury Castro, Secretary



Maria A. Flores, Member



Ray Jaramillo, Member