



Superintendent
Michele Cantwell-Copher

District 1
Kimberly Tapscott-Munson

District 2
Bryan Burton

District 3
James Martinez

District 4
Dr. Marcy Masumoto

District 5
Dr. Allen Clyde

BEFORE THE FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND THE FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Encouragement to
Continue Focus on School Safety

Resolution No. 2024 - 23 (FCBE)
Resolution No. 2024 - 20 (FCSS)

WHEREAS, our public schools are charged not only with supporting student achievement, but also providing a foundation for mental and physical health, personal growth and civic engagement.

WHEREAS, student safety is a prerequisite for consistently high levels of academic and social development.

WHEREAS, violence and harassment can not only alienate students from their peers and their environment, thereby impeding learning, but also cause injuries and fatalities.

WHEREAS, in its September 2023 study, Report on Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2021, the National Center for Education Statistics found that approximately 22 percent of students aged 12 to 18 said they were bullied at school.

WHEREAS, same study noted that in 2019 approximately 13 percent of high school students reported carrying a weapon at any point during the previous 30 days and approximately 3 percent reported carrying a weapon on campus during the previous 30 days.

WHEREAS, the study also noted that in 2019 over 7 percent of students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous 12 months.

WHEREAS, the horrific prospect of school shootings made an indelible impression on the national consciousness with the Columbine massacre of 1999.

WHEREAS, the study referenced above points out that in the 2021-22 school year had the highest number of school shootings since the 2000-01 school year. In the 2021-22 school year, there were 188 school shootings with casualties which was more than twice as many shooting as the 2020-21 school year when there were 93 school shootings with casualties. Additionally, these numbers do not include school shootings without casualties.

WHEREAS, gun violence on school campuses, while relatively rare, represents a particularly egregious and unacceptable threat to the lives of students, teachers and staff across the country.

WHEREAS, gun violence in schools occurs in America with a frequency and a severity that is unparalleled anywhere in the world.

WHEREAS, exposure to trauma can adversely affect a child's health for the rest of their life.

WHEREAS, the Fresno County Board of Education (County Board) and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) support the right of students and staff to

attend schools that are safe and free from violence and harassment, especially life-threatening forms of violence.

WHEREAS, all students, regardless of background, deserve access to services that support and enhance their physical, mental and emotional health.

WHEREAS, safe schools provide an environment where teaching and learning can flourish; disruptions are minimized; violence, bullying and fear are absent; students are not discriminated against; expectations for behavior are clearly communicated and standards of behavior are maintained; and consequences for infractions are consistently and fairly applied.

WHEREAS, the most effective approach to creating safe school environments is a comprehensive, coordinated effort including schoolwide, districtwide and communitywide strategies supplemented with legislation, resources and support at the state and federal legislation level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Education and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools:

1. Encourage all schools in Fresno County to continue to hold regular drills as prescribed in both schoolsite and school district emergency plans, and encourage the involvement of all school district personnel, law enforcement, fire and medical rescue personnel, emergency management personnel and others essential to preventing, mitigating or resolving any potential crisis.
2. Encourage the countywide review of all schoolsite discipline rules and procedures to ensure they are appropriately enforced and that student handbooks explaining codes of conduct, unacceptable behavior and disciplinary consequences are given to all students, parents, and caregivers.
3. Commit to continue to work with all schools in Fresno County, a broad spectrum of local community members, local law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, students, teachers and staff to take any threats of violence seriously and to develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive school climate, free from harassment and violence.
4. Encourage representatives from all schools in Fresno County to attend the countywide school safety symposium and annual professional development on school safety issues provided by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, in partnership with law enforcement agencies.
5. Urge the State of California and the United States Congress to invest in wraparound services to prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in schools and to provide funding for programs and staff such as counselors, nurses and psychologists, which support students' mental, physical and emotional health.

This Resolution is adopted by the Fresno County Board of Education at its meeting of April 18, 2024, by the following votes:

President James Martinez:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President Allen Clyde:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Member Bryan Burton:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Member Marcy Masumoto:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>

Member Kimberly Tapscott-Munson. Yes No Abstain Absent


James Martinez, President


This Resolution is adopted by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools as of the date immediately stated below as evident by her signature hereunder:


Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher, Superintendent

Date: 4/18/24

CERTIFICATION

I am the Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Fresno County Board of Education and hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the full, true, and correct resolution duly passed and adopted by the Fresno County Board of Education on the date stated above.

By: 
Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher
Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the
Fresno County Board of Education

Date: 4/18/24