

RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Making School Safety a Legislative Priority

WHEREAS, school and student safety is the number one priority of school districts across the country and the State of Texas, as well as in Fort Bend ISD; and

WHEREAS, more than a dozen school shootings have occurred in schools across the United States in 2018, including the horrific school massacre in Fort Bend ISD's neighboring district, Santa Fe ISD on May 18, 2018 where 10 people died, both students and staff; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), one in eight Texas students attempted suicide in 2017. This is higher than the national average of 7%. Students in Texas reported feeling hopeless and depressed at a rate of 34%, this is up from 27% in 2013; and

WHEREAS, 43% of Fort Bend ISD secondary students reported feeling stressed out and 28% reported feeling anxious or worried; and

WHEREAS, there is a large deficit of mental health resources available to students, parents, communities and school districts; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick has expressed his support of increasing security in Texas schools; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend ISD operates 80 schools, serving more than 76,000 students and 11,000 employees in Fort Bend County and has a safety advisory committee that recommended multiple security enhancements District-wide, including the addition of police officers, threat assessment personnel, additional door locks and a centralized emergency operations center, many of which will need to be funded through the annual maintenance and operations budget.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees respectfully empower and support our respected state legislators to act on behalf of the District's more than 76,000 students and 11,000 employees to advocate for funding that supports mental health programs and resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature give districts choice in the use of state safety and security funds because districts need flexibility to use these funds in a method deemed appropriate to meet the unique safety and security needs of each individual district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mental health and behavior wellness is one of the key factors in prevention and in providing a safe and secure learning environment, and because Fort Bend ISD believes in educating the whole child and supporting a healthy environment to support effective mental health and behavior wellness programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this priority begins within the leadership of the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees and together, we share one unified message to all involved:

We believe all children can learn, we have high expectations for each of the students we serve, we want to use all resources to make the difference in the lives of each child, the future of Texas depends on educating our growing enrollment with diverse needs, and the public schools are charged by the Texas Constitution with this great mission for Texas.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 17 day of December, 2018 by the Board of Trustees

CERTIFICATE FOR RESOLUTION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was presented to the Board of Trustees of the Fort Bend Independent School District during a regularly scheduled meeting on December 17, 2018. A quorum of the Board of Trustees being then present, it was duly moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted, and such resolution was then adopted according to the following vote:

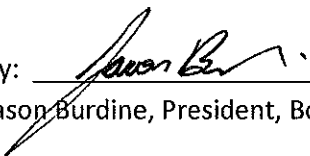
Ayes: 6

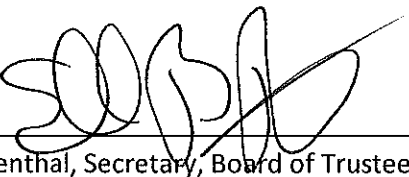
Nays: 0

Abstentions: _____

To certify which, witness my hand and the official seal of the District this 17 day of December 2018.

President, Board of Trustees
FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: 
Jason Burdine, President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:
By: 
Dave Rosenthal, Secretary, Board of Trustees

