

Croton-Harmon Union Free School District

Safe School Measures Needed Now!

Whereas, the safety of all children in our schools is of paramount importance; and

Whereas the proposed 5% reduction to the current Federal education budget would include \$425 million in cuts to mental health and school safety programs, such as the School Emergency Response to Violence Program and Project Prevention Grants; and

Whereas seventeen students and staff members were killed and many others were injured as a result of a school shooting in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018; and

Whereas in the past five years, 438 students and staff members have been shot in more than 239 school shootings across our Country¹; and

Whereas a need for greater access to mental health services for students and families in our schools and communities was ranked as a top funding priority by the majority of Superintendents in New York State²; and

Whereas we believe that every child has the right to a safe school environment that has an appropriate level of security as determined by our community; and

Whereas a reasoned and rational approach to gun control, based on sound government funded research, could create a real reduction in the pace of gun violence; and

Whereas increased access to comprehensive and effective mental health services for students and families in our schools and communities is an essential element of a safe school environment; and

Whereas the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District fosters civic discourse and promotes student understanding of government and current issues; and

Whereas a coordinated effort at the Federal and State levels, boosted by community engagement, law enforcement and attention to the social and emotional well-being of students and adults alike, is needed to change the paradigm and protect our communities and our schools;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District calls upon the New York State Assembly, the New York State Senate, and Governor Andrew Cuomo to continue their work to implement a reasoned and rational approach to address gun control and background checks, and calls upon them to prioritize funding and resources for increased access to mental health services for students and families in our schools and communities; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District implores Federal and State leaders to take immediate action to:

- Provide additional funding to schools and communities for adequate mental health, social, and guidance services and resources for the purpose of

¹ As reported by The New York Times "After Sandy Hook, More Than 400 People Have Been Shot in Over 200 School Shootings", February 15, 2018

² As reported by NYSCOSS "Losing Ground", October 2017

- prevention, support, and response;
- Provide funds for districts to upgrade their facilities if internal safety audits find there is a need for improvements;
 - Provide funding for essential security personnel and related professional development for all staff, as determined by the local school district;
 - Enact rational and reasonable gun control measures; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District affirms that the civic engagement of students in Parkland, Florida and beyond, who are speaking out for school safety, support for mental health services, and legislation to address gun violence needs to be heard; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District opposes any reductions in federal or state funding for education that would cut mental health or school safety programs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District calls upon the President of the United States, US Senate, US House of Representatives Governor of New York, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to take concrete steps to prevent gun violence and to provide extensive support for local school districts to promote school safety.

Adopted: **INSERT DATE**

Respectfully submitted by:

The Croton Harmon Board of Education: Iris Bugliosi, President; Andrea Furey, Vice President; Sarah Carrier, Joshua Diamond, Neal Haber, Elizabeth Lynam, and Giuseppina Miller

The Board of Education directs the District Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the following people:

- Sandra Galef, State Assembly Member
- Terrence Murphy, State Senator
- Nita Lowey, US Congressman/woman
- President Donald J. Trump
- Senator Charles Schumer, US Senate
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, US Senate
- Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York
- Carl Heastie, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly
- John Flanagan, the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
- Catherine Nolan, State Assemblywoman, Chair, Committee on Education
- Carl L Marcellino, State Senate, Chair, Committee on Education
- Judith Johnson, NYS Board of Regents
- Betty Rosa, Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents
- MaryEllen Elia, NYS Commissioner of Education
- Betsy DeVos, US Secretary of Education
- Lisa Davis, Executive Director, Westchester Putnam School Boards Association

