



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wauwatosa School Board calls on state lawmakers to return for a special session to address and pass school safety legislation

WAUWATOSA, WI – The Wauwatosa School Board is requesting state lawmakers return to the State Capitol yet this Spring for a special session to address and pass comprehensive school safety legislation.

The Board detailed the call-to-action in a resolution that members unanimously approved during their March 26, 2018 meeting.

“Wauwatosa School Board unanimously urges Governor Walker and Wisconsin legislators to call an extraordinary session in early April, return to Madison and pass school safety measures we urgently need,” said School Board President Shawn Rolland. “Wisconsin’s motto is ‘forward’ but it’s hard to go forward when you’re always looking back over your shoulder for danger. Our leaders must not ignore school safety for 10 months in order to hit the campaign trail early. Our brave students, people marching on the streets and school officials are crying out for serious action on school safety right now.”

In the resolution, the Board asks legislators to approve 2017 Assembly Bill 111, which enables prosecutors to charge with a Class 1 Felony any minor and/or adult who intentionally conveys a threat or false information concerning an attempt to use a dangerous weapon to injure or kill a person on school property or at a school-sanctioned event. Additionally, in the resolution, the Wauwatosa School Board asks state lawmakers to pass strong legislation that would:

- Allocate sufficient funds enabling school districts to offer enhanced mental health services for students and staff who need help and to equip school crisis teams to respond to threats before they are acted on.
- Require mental health background checks for anyone under the age of 21 to assess whether someone is having mental health difficulties and should not be allowed to purchase a hand gun.
- Reinstate a 48-hour waiting period or enact a 72-hour waiting period for gun purchases.
- Create a lethal violence protective order (LVPO) process in Wisconsin that mirrors existing temporary restraining order and injunction processes through Wisconsin courts.
- Ban the sale of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines and aftermarket rapid fire devices (commonly known as bump stocks).
- Require universal background checks for all gun purchases.
- Allocate sufficient funds to enable school districts to make needed security improvements.

The Board states a responsibility to act on behalf of the more than 2,000 Wauwatosa School District students who participated in walkouts on March 14th and called for the Board, and state and federal legislators, to take meaningful action to keep schools safe.

The Wauwatosa School District does not discriminate on the basis of a person's color, sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law.

“The bill approved this week is a start, but it’s too soft on school shooter threats, too narrow in scope, and not urgent or serious enough to address the danger. A person who threatens to shoot up a school can still walk our streets after a slap-on-the-wrist 72-hour detention,” said Rolland. “Anyone who credibly threatens to kill someone with a deadly weapon on school property should be charged with a felony and taken into custody. A person making dangerous threats about school children could still purchase assault weapons and high-capacity magazines without a mental health evaluation or even a background check. Wisconsin’s school safety system has dangerous gaps and our state leaders are the only ones who can close them.”

Read the complete resolution [HERE](#).

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