

**A RESOLUTION OF  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
REGARDING SCHOOL SAFETY**

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Lee County, Florida (the "School Board"), consisting of seven elected Florida Constitutional Officers, is the governing body for the School District of Lee County, Florida (the "District");

**WHEREAS**, the safety of all children is the highest priority of the School Board, and as such, the School Board is deeply saddened by any tragic event at a school, including but not limited, to the tragic events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018, Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on May 24, 2022, Richneck Elementary School in Newport, Virginia on January 6, 2023, and the recent events at Michigan State University on February 13, 2023, as well as many others;

**WHEREAS**, the District has experienced social media threats of violence against schools, students and staff, and weapons have been found on school property;

**WHEREAS**, recent "swatting" threats at some of our schools have raised concerns locally and nationally;

**WHEREAS**, the "Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act" requires each district school board and superintendent to partner with law enforcement agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district by implementing a combination of options that best meets the needs of the school district;

**WHEREAS**, the District has school resource officers and desires to have a force multiplier for additional protection enhance safety, and to add another layer of security in our schools;

**WHEREAS**, the "Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act" enacted by the 2018 Florida Legislature established a "Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program" ("Guardian Program") to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises;

**WHEREAS**, the School Board may implement and the Lee County Sheriff, Carmine Marceno, may establish a Guardian Program;

**WHEREAS**, there are very specific legal requirements to establish a Guardian Program. A candidate for the Guardian Program must undergo extensive training that will be provided by the Sheriff's Office, which includes 12 hours of certified nationally-recognized diversity training and 132 hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training for a total of 144 hours of extensive training. Candidates must also pass a psychological evaluation and a drug test, in accordance with statutory requirements. In addition, candidates are required to complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on, at minimum, an annual basis;

**WHEREAS**, in keeping with the School Board's paramount concern for the safety of the District's students, the School Board desires to memorialize its position on the importance of school safety and to enact a Guardian Program within the District;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the School Board adopts the following resolutions in support of school safety as follows:

- I. The School Board supports and will adhere to the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.”
- II. The School Board intends to utilize the options available to meet the requirements of Section 26 of the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act” for the protection and safety of students, staff, visitors, and property.
- III. The School Board desires to implement a Guardian Program to serve as a force multiplier for additional security and safety. The School Board directs the Superintendent to work closely with Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno and the other local law enforcement agencies, in devising and implementing a Guardian Program. The safe operation of the program shall be the paramount concern, as well as compliance with the specific statutory requirements noted in Fl. Stat. 1006.12, which includes extensive training, psychological evaluation, and drug testing.
- IV. The sole purpose of a Guardian is to prevent or abate an active assailant on school premises. As such, the Guardian shall have no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant. A candidate for the Guardian Program shall be a volunteer. Candidates must be full-time employees of the District who are in good standing. Further, candidates shall not be employees exclusively performing classroom duties, such as teachers, as defined in Fl. Stat. 1012.01(2)(a).

Any candidate for the Guardian Program that fails any part of the application process, including the background check, and any part of the training, psychological or drug test is automatically barred from the program.

- V. The Superintendent is directed to draft policies and procedures to effectuate this resolution.

ADOPTED, on March \_\_\_\_, 2023 in Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, on behalf of and by the School Board of Lee County, Florida.

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Armor Persons  
Board Chair

Witness and Attestation:

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Christopher S. Bernier, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools