

March 9, 2018

Dear Edmonds School District Board Directors, students, staff, and administrators:

Educators, students, parents, and allies have had enough of the gun violence that endangers our school communities. America cannot be great and realize its promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness if our children are not safe from gun violence. Students are standing up for common sense gun safety legislation. As educators and parents, we applaud them and endorse their efforts.

We strongly urge you to publicly support all principals, educators, and students in our schools who wish to participate in the upcoming National School Walkouts to protest gun violence (the first of which is scheduled on March 14 for 17 minutes—one minute for each victim of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooting on). Additional walkouts and other actions are scheduled on March 24 and April 20, and additional walkouts may occur. We believe educators and students should have your support to participate in these actions.

We believe that it is neither desirable nor appropriate to arm school employees for any purpose and urge that the existing prohibition of firearms at our district schools be maintained. Instead of a focus on reaction, our focus should be on prevention, beginning with ample funding, ample resources, small class sizes, as well as the meaningful presence of school counselors and psychologists in every building. As the Interdisciplinary Group on Preventing School and Community Violence wrote in their February 28 Call to Action, “Prevention entails more than security measures and begins long before a gunman comes to school. We need a comprehensive public health approach to gun violence that is informed by scientific evidence and free from partisan politics.”

Let us work together to ensure #neveragain.

Respectfully submitted,

Andi Nofziger, EEA President, on behalf of the Edmonds EA Representative Council