

RESOLUTION

SAFETY AND WELFARE ISSUES CONCERNING STUDENTS IN THE HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND RELOCATABLE CLASSROOMS

WHEREAS, recent school tragedies, terrorist attacks on our country and the current war on terrorism have created new challenges to the safety and welfare of Harford County Public School students and the climate of our schools; and

WHEREAS, the current climate of our schools has been parent and community oriented; and

WHEREAS, this new school climate requires practical adjustments in the balance between public access to school buildings and the safety of our children in the school buildings and relocatable classrooms; and

WHEREAS, this balance should ensure the valuable contributions volunteers make to the success of our school system; and, whereas, the presence of volunteers in schools should not be unnecessarily curtailed; and

WHEREAS, the Harford County Board of Education has recently contracted the services of Mr. Michael Dorn, a security expert, and the reported recommendations from this consultation are available as a resource in the development and implementation of a safety and security policy; and

WHEREAS, communication between teachers and the main office is essential for prompt notification of issues that affect the immediate welfare of our children; and, whereas, two-way communication is lacking in many classrooms and relocatables in Harford County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, relocatable classrooms provide for their own unique safety requirements

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. submits to the Harford County Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, the local, state and federal government, that the safety and welfare of our children be its highest priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. recommends that the Harford County Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools immediately review the recommendations issued by the Security Expert and ensure that those recommendations are adequately reflected in the Safety and Security Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. recommends that the Harford County Board of Education evaluate the Safety and Security Plan and establish priorities for immediate consideration and to include a county based dress code policy and public access plan subject to public comment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. recommends that the local, state and federal government support the Harford County Public School initiatives on Safety and Security and provide the necessary funding to ensure the safety and security of our youngest citizens; and, be it further resolved that two-way communication systems be immediately reviewed, funded and installed in all Harford County Public School classrooms and relocatables as part of this effort.

ADOPTED 11.08.01