

Malden Gun Violence Resolution

Whereas, the United States experiences far more mass shootings than any other developed country;
and

Whereas, the high number of mass shootings in schools has shocked and horrified the nation; and

Whereas, killing 17 students and staff and injuring 14 others at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018, has generated significant public debate about what steps to take to protect our students; and

Whereas, one recommendation has been to arm teachers and other school staff, and

Whereas, arming school staff would change the role of educators from teachers to law enforcers and pose significant risks for staff and students alike; and

Whereas, addressing the underlying social, emotional and psychological conditions that contribute to the commission of such acts is the most effective way to prevent mass shootings; and

Whereas, full funding of schools is needed to make sure all students have access to services that enhance and support such conditions, including adjustment counselors, guidance counselors, nurses, fine and performing arts programs, adequate recess in elementary grades, books, healthy school lunches and wrap-around services;

Therefore, the Malden School Committee opposes any efforts to address the school violence problem by arming educators; and

The School Committee supports increased funding for public education by the state and federal governments to make sure all students have the support and enrichment they need; and

The School Committee supports current laws in Massachusetts banning the sale of assault weapons and encourages state and national lawmakers to explore what additional laws are needed to promote public safety, including effective and universal measures to keep guns out of the hands of people who have a violent criminal record or are dangerously mentally ill; and

The School Committee also pledges to listen closely to the views of students, educators, parents and other community residents in developing additional measures to enhance school safety while making sure our schools remain welcoming, nurturing learning environments.