

FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION

**Ensuring that Views are Heard and Exchanged in a Safe
Environment**

WHEREAS, the Florida School Boards Association is a nonpartisan body which represents 346 school board members; and

WHEREAS, Public education is essential to an informed citizenry, the foundation of our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, public schools are the cornerstone of each community, bringing together adults and children, educators, volunteers, business leaders, community groups, and elected officials in a common enterprise; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to First Amendment rights of all citizens is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and integral to the spirit of Florida's open meeting laws; and

WHEREAS, Florida school boards both encourage and welcome parents, as well as other concerned citizens, to engage in lively, respectful, and civil civic discourse at school board meetings; and

WHEREAS, the FSBA affirms that the safety of all school board members and citizens who attend school board meetings is of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, the FSBA is concerned about alarming incidents and comments if they extend beyond civil civic discourse; and

WHEREAS, illegal acts cannot be tolerated; and

WHEREAS, Florida school board members maintain full confidence in and appreciate our partnership with local and state law enforcement agencies to effectively address issues of public safety if they arise; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Florida School Boards Association calls upon all school districts to collaborate with their respective local law enforcement agencies to continue to provide a safe environment for all stakeholders to exchange views, thereby ensuring parents' voices are heard when it comes to decisions about their children's education and safety.

Misty Belford, Board Chair, District 1

Matt Susin, Board Vice-Chair, District 4

Cheryl McDougall, District 2

Jennifer Jenkins, District 3

Katye Campbell, District 5