



FAYETTEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Students and Parents:

Throughout the United States, schools are being forced to prepare for the unthinkable – the potential of a mass school shooting. Tragedies like Sutherland Springs, or those on school campuses such as Italy, TX, Benton, KY, or most recently Parkland, FL, are becoming too common in our society. Sadly, according to a *USA Today* article, since 2006 there have been over 200 mass shootings in the US. Unfortunately, for troubled individuals, “Gun Free School Zones,” have become easy targets in many cases.

Over the past couple of months, the Fayetteville ISD school board has been watching the devastation and has chosen to take action regarding appropriate policies. Recently, the board has changed local policy and has created a group that we will call “Guardians.” They will have the right to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds.

The Guardians will be staff members who have passed each of the following requirements (and more):

- Hand selected staff members.
- Must have their License to Carry permit (LTC).
- Must pass a psychological exam just like local law enforcement.
- Must qualify annually with the specific handgun they will carry.
- Must be on the random drug testing list and pass all tests.
- Must be trained in tactics for denying an intruder entry into a classroom or facility.
- Must be approved by the school board.

The people who make it through the training and gain final approval are volunteers. In order to protect them from becoming targets of an intruder, their names are confidential and are not to be released. I ask that names not be guessed at nor rumors passed in an attempt to protect these individuals.

Signs will be posted on our campuses which say, “Attention: Please be aware that the staff of Fayetteville ISD may be armed and will use whatever force is necessary to protect our students.” These signs are to serve as a warning that shooters should pick some other target. Our campus will no longer be an “easy target” where troubled individuals choose to act out violently without being challenged.

So, may you carry a concealed handgun or even open carry? No. No students, parents nor most staff will be allowed to carry. Only those who have met all requirements will be allowed to carry. Please continue to be aware that any gun rumored to be on campus or seen on campus should be reported immediately.

Respectfully,

Jeff W. Harvey
Superintendent
Fayetteville ISD