

*The Board of Supervisors of  
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

**Resolution No. 2018/477**

supporting the Contra Costa County Office of Education/*Sandy Hook Promise* Partnership

WHEREAS, social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely, or treated like you are invisible, and social isolation is a growing epidemic in the United States and within our schools; and

WHEREAS, young people who are isolated can become victims of bullying, violence and/or depression and as a result, many pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development and/or choose to hurt themselves or others; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death for American teenagers and many adolescents suffer in silence, while those who do reach out for help tend to confide in their friends and peers, who are often unequipped to intervene; and

WHEREAS, over the last 25 years, research has revealed that in 7 out of 10 acts of gun violence, a friend(s) was told that an act of violence would be committed or may take place. In one study, it was reported that in 4 out of 5 school shootings, the attackers had told people of their plans ahead of time; and

WHEREAS, *Start with Hello* (A *Sandy Hook Promise* "Know the Signs" program) teaches students, grades 2-12, the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization; and

WHEREAS, *Say Something* (A *Sandy Hook Promise* "Know the Signs" program) is an education and awareness program that provides tools and practices to recognize the signs and signals of a potential threat to students – especially in social media – and teaches and instills participants how to take action; and

WHEREAS, *Signs of Suicide* (A *Sandy Hook Promise* "Know the Signs" program) teaches middle and high school students to recognize the warning signs of depression and suicide, thereby building their capacity for empathy, social responsibility, and social activism, leading to safer schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, *Threat Assessment and Intervention* (A *Sandy Hook Promise* "Know the Signs" program) helps create safer, healthier homes, schools and communities by accessing help for individuals who may pose an imminent/longer term threat to themselves or others; and

WHEREAS, by building a culture of inclusion and connectedness, schools and communities can better support their young people and reduce their risk of bullying, violence and depression; and

WHEREAS, *Sandy Hook Promise* (SHP) is a national, nonprofit organization based in Newtown, Connecticut and is led by several family members whose loved ones were

killed in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 that claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and 6 educators; SHP is focused on preventing gun violence (and other forms of violence and victimization) BEFORE it happens by educating and mobilizing youth and adults on mental health and wellness programs that identify, intervene and help at-risk individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) has committed to support schools and school districts in Contra Costa County through its *Safe Schools for All* Initiative and three-year partnership with Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) that features their no-cost “Know the Signs” programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- Remain committed to preventing violence on school campuses as part of its efforts to promote healthy schools and communities in Contra Costa County.
- Endorses and supports the Contra Costa County Office of Education’s *Safe Schools for All* initiative and active partnership with Sandy Hook Promise.
- Will promote and support the success of the Sandy Hook Promise no-cost “Know the Signs” programs in high schools and middle schools throughout Contra Costa County.

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**KAREN MITCHOFF**  
Chair, District IV Supervisor

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**JOHN GIOIA**  
District I Supervisor

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**CANDACE ANDERSEN**  
District II Supervisor

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**DIANE BURGIS**  
District III Supervisor

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**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**  
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: September 11, 2018

David J. Twa,

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy