

**School Board**  
Sally A. Harris, Chair  
Tamara P. Shamburger, Vice Chair  
Lynn L. Gray  
April Griffin  
Melissa Snively  
Cindy Stuart  
Susan L. Valdes



**Hillsborough County**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Preparing Students for Life

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Jeff Eakins

**Deputy Superintendent**  
Van Ayres

**Chief of Schools**  
Harrison Peters

March 7, 2018

Honorable Joe Negron, Senate President  
Honorable Richard Corcoran, Speaker of the House  
All Florida Legislators

**Sent via email only due to time sensitivity**

Your Honors:


As you take legislative action regarding school safety, I am writing to inform you that the School Board of Hillsborough County voted unanimously on March 6, 2018, to prepare this correspondence so that you are aware of the School Board's position on HB 7026.

The Hillsborough County School Board adamantly opposes arming classroom teachers with weapons. We do support language in HB 7026 to allow for the School District and the sheriff's office to determine if participation in the opt-in Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program (formerly known as the school marshal program) would be appropriate for this county and its students, teachers, families.

Further, we wholeheartedly support the proposal to increase Mental Health initiatives and services for our students. This all being said, we feel it important to appeal to you that these additional measures be enacted without decreasing the overall Base Student Allocation (BSA).

Respectfully,

  
Sally Harris, Chairperson

  
Jeff Eakins, Superintendent

Susan L. Valdes, School Board Member  
Cindy Stuart, School Board Member  
Melissa Snively, School Board Member  
Tamara Shamburger, School Board Member  
April Griffin, School Board Member  
Lynn Gray, School Board Member

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Rick Scott, Gover