Dakota Mathis

ENGL 1102

Dr. Partridge

02 March 2018

Should Guns Be Allowed in Schools?

The article, “No, Teachers Should Not Carry Guns,” was written by Russ Moore, a principal at New York State, stating that Moore owns several different types of guns and has permits to purchase and carry them legally, he said. When the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy happened, President Obama stated on television, “Individually and as a nation, we have said (emptily) too many times that something needs to be done.” Moore agrees with President Obama’s statement. Moore mentioned The National Rifle Association’s (NRA) reaction to the tragedy of Sandy Hook Elementary School being, “The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” The principal stated he was never a part of the NRA because he disagreed with “gun control”, he also stated that he wants to simply limit the access of allowing the access of guns. Moore believes that teachers should not be armed, or even himself as a principal because many people do not have the nerve to shoot the gun on spot. Moore says that teachers are trained to educate, some have never shot a gun, let alone own one, and now they must train to defend the schools. Moore goes on to talk about the training of police officers, the swat team, and security guards because they must go through an excessive amount of training before standing up to someone with a gun, whereas teachers were trained to educate the students they teach. If guns were allowed in schools for teachers and principals, if accessible and for defensive purposes, then teachers and principals would not be the only ones to have access to the guns, according to Moore, and that would be an even greater threat. Moore mentions a problem with teachers being able to carry guns in schools. Moore says that since the teachers are the defenders of the schools, they could come face-to-face with the shooter(s). Moore goes on to say that if that were to happen and the teachers could not respond fast enough, it would leave them defenseless, as well as a target. Guns are dangerous in schools because they can become very harmful, mentioned Moore.

The country has 350 billion people, but also has more than 310 million guns, a CNN Contributor, LZ Granderson, stated in his article, “Teachers with Guns Is a Crazy Idea”. Granderson states that we need less guns. When it comes to schools, there does not need to be any guns, Granderson says. The Michigan Senate Bill 59 allowed citizens who have permits to carry their concealed weapons, stated Granderson, but the Governor of Michigan, Rick Snyder, wants to veto the Michigan Senate Bill 59. If people are provided “extra training”, they can carry their guns into “gun-free” zones, Granderson states. Granderson says that extra training is meant for 8 hours and 94 rounds on the firing range. The Michigan Senate Bill 59 was approved the of the Newtown, Texas. Unlike Michigan Governor, Snyder, the Governor of Texas, Rick Perry does not see any problems with concealed weapons in the schools. About 21 Superintendents in the school wrote up a letter and signed it to send it to Governor Snyder, according to Granderson. The superintendents did not believe that carrying concealed weapons in schools were okay, and they wanted to see if Governor Snyder veto the Senate Bill 59.

Unfortunately, Gene Hoffman agrees with the Governor of Texas, Rick Perry because Hoffman thinks teachers should carry concealed weapons as well. USA News contributor, Gene Hoffman, wrote an article called, “Teachers Should Be Allowed to Carry Firearms”. Gene Hoffman states that there are ways to do something and that something should be done when tragedies happen. The shooter who was armed during the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy had stolen guns, but the gun controls would not have stopped the shooter from entering the school, Hoffman explained. Hoffman mentions that guns are used at least 3,000 times a day in self-defense, but without shooting the gun. A tragedy occurred with Emmitt Till in August of 1955, Hoffman explained. Dr. Howard wanted to do make something happen, and by doing so, he created a major shift in the Civil Rights Movement, Hoffman states. Hoffman continues to say that Dr. Howard wanted to arm the Klu Klux Klan because it would gain justice for Emmitt Till. According to Hoffman, the proposals helped lead to doing something. 300 million guns are not going away, and neither are mental illnesses nor elementary schools, so the teachers should be armed in schools, Hoffman states. Arms are not always considered firearms, Hoffman believes in less lethal devices and training.

A Superintendent in Clarksville, Arkansas, David Hopkins bought his teachers a slim, black 9-Millimeter and most teachers wear them, Kim Severson mentioned in the article she wrote, “Guns at School? If There’s a Will, There Are Ways.” The State of Arkansas has a law that prohibits guns on campus, so superintendent David Hopkins had to find his way around bringing concealed weapons onto campus, Severson says. Mr. Hopkins does not have the money to hire security guards, so every teacher is supplied with their own concealed weapon with 60 hours of training, stated Severson. Severson said some states considered new legislation because of the rampage that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut, in which allowed the faculty and staff to be armed, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Severson talks about 5 laws that are expanding the public teachers being armed in schools. In most cases, teachers are not afraid to carry concealed weapons in schools because they have owned a concealed weapon for some time, stated Severson. State and local law imposed there are some limits on concealed weapons and where they are carried, Severson says. Not long ago, Asa Hutchinson led the National Rifle Association’s school safety, that “advocated” armed security officers and armed teachers in schools, stated Severson. Severson goes on to say that Hutchinson superintendent in Arkansas had a conversation, and he so happened to have been carrying his concealed weapons for 10 years. There were 13 in the state of Arkansas, including Clarksville, whom had permission for staff members to be armed under private security, Severson states. Attorney General, Dustin McDaniel, provided an opinion that schools should not act as “private security companies,” McDaniel said, having the state suspend their practice temporarily, just after the school year started, stated Severson. Severson also stated that the number of public school teachers in which carry a concealed weapon in public schools is 10 percent or less but is continuing to grow.

Granderson, LZ. “Teachers with Guns is a Crazy Idea.” *CNN,* www.cnn.com/2012/12/19/opinion/granderson-guns-in-schools/index.html*.* 19 December 2012.

Hoffman, Gene. “Teachers Should Be Allowed to Carry Firearms.” *USA News,* www.usnews.com/debate-club/did-the-sandy-hook-shooting-prove-the-need-for-more-gun-control/teachers-should-be-allowed-to-carry-firearms*.* 19 December 2012.

Moore, Russ. “No, Teachers Should Not Carry Guns.” *Education Week,* www..org/ew/articles/2014/10/29/10moore.h34.html*.* 28 October 2014.

Severson, Kim. “Guns at School? If There’s a Will, There Are Ways.” *The New York Times*, www.nytimes.com/2013/09/28/us/guns-at-school-if-theres-a-will-there-are-ways.html.27 September 2013.