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Middle school walkout in Moraga

By *Sophie Braccini*



Students participate in the March 14 walkout at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Photo Sophie Braccini

proceeded in an orderly fashion.

Five middle school girls stood by the flag with a sound system and talked to their peers who listened with sustained attention. They read a poem from a Parkland student who had died, they read the list of those killed during the Parkland shooting, and mentioned all the shootings that have happened in the United States since Columbine. Chase asked for a minute of silence before calling the meeting to an end.

Besides the messages of remembrance, the students also called for politicians to enforce tougher gun control laws and institute a ban on assault weapons. In the crowd, students were holding signs reading slogans such as, "I've seen smarter cabinets at Ikea" or "Your A.R. or my life," or simply, "I stand for safety."

When parents left, some found a sheet of paper with the text from the Second Amendment on their windshield, stating: "A well regulated militia, being necessary for the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Superintendent Bruce Burns, who came to JMIS to see how the event went, said that he received protest letters from a few parents who were opposed to the district authorizing the walkout. He informed JMIS parents of the position taken by his district in a letter where he emphasized the healing power for the students to express themselves in a meaningful, safe, respectful, empowering and non-political way.

(See the article by John Miller on page B3 about the local high school walkouts.)

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