

Plainfield Students Participate in National School Walkout Day

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Students participate in the National School Walkout in support of students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, one month since a gunman killed 17 people.

PLAINFIELD, NJ - The students at Plainfield High School, Barack Obama Academy for Academic & Civic Development and Plainfield Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies (PAAAS) participated in the National School Walkout on

Wednesday in support of the Florida students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the gun protest movement.

"We are planning programs in the buildings, trying to have it as least disruptive as possible," Interim Superintendent Ronald Bolandi had said at the March 6 Board of Education Work & Study meeting.

"We want to honor the students' rights to protest, but we are trying to convince them to do it inside."

In a later statement to the press, Bolandi said, "We are working with the students. The principals at our high schools are working with student government as the students prepare to mark the occasion. We are going to keep them safe, and it's going to be a learning experience."

Students prepared for the event with the support of their teachers and school administrators. In the days leading up to it, they made posters in art class, and participated in class discussions that examined the purpose of peaceful demonstration and the meaning of the nationwide walkout.

The initial plan for the day of the walk called for students to walk out of their classrooms, join hands and keep a moment of silence for the seventeen lives lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. But a robocall to parents the day before indicated that the students would leave the building and walk the perimeter of the school.

On Wednesday, there was a strong police presence at Plainfield High School as the students made their way outside.