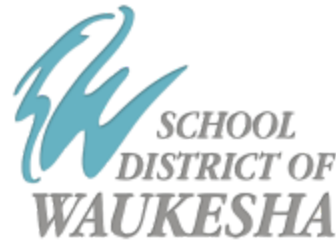


Date: February 21, 2018

To: Parents and Guardians of students in grades 6 -12

Re: Waukesha Schools Clarification of students and protests



Dear School District of Waukesha Families,

I am sending this message today to clarify the district's position on the proposed March 14 walkout. The purpose of yesterday's message was to address a non-district affiliated group's using the district name and property to address an organized student walkout. The School District of Waukesha informed the organizer that they are not allowed to use our name and location and that this is not a School District of Waukesha event. The memo indicated that students who walked out of school or students who created a school disruption would be subject to discipline, consistent with our policies.

I would like to make clear that this position **is not at all about students. At no time have we said students cannot make a student-initiated statement peacefully, without disrupting the school, while staying in school.** This is about an outside organization/organizer. This is not a Waukesha student-initiated or organized event. At this time no student group or student organization has come forth to request participation in this or any other walk-out. This is being promoted by adults, without permission to use the districts' names or property to hold this event.

Further, the district's position is not about politics. I am trying to keep politics out of it. Participating in this event with this partisan organization is a political action activity, which is prohibited by Board policy. I have followed Board of Education policy on this matter.

The district has requested the adult organizer/organization to eliminate any reference to Waukesha schools. The individual refused. Please note that not only has she continued to use Waukesha Public Schools, but she has also advertised the location of the event as school district property (707 W. College Ave). No permission has been requested or granted to use the District's name or similar name in support of this event. Nor has any permission been requested or granted to use our property.

We acknowledge that individuals have a right to demonstrate to support a cause. **Therefore, if parents wish to excuse their children from school to attend such an event or demonstration, that is their right.** However, the school or district will not excuse any student to leave school without parents' permission. The district will follow the established attendance procedures to address unexcused absences from school. Further, if students disrupt the learning environment for others, this will be addressed as well.

I understand and respect the grief and anxiety by students from this recent school tragedy. We continually work to make sure our schools are safe and secure.
Sincerely,

Dr. Todd Gray

Superintendent of Schools
School District of Waukesha