Terra Linda Staff:

In response to the recent school tragedy in Florida, students across the nation are organizing walkouts to demonstrate their commitment towards improving school safety. Thank you for your continued professionalism and leadership as we work together to support all students and each other.

As I shared yesterday, I emailed information to our parent community related to Terra Linda High School’s response to walkouts. We are incredibly fortunate to live in a democracy where we can hold political conversations even when we disagree at times. We as adults need to monitor our behaviors; we want to demonstrate compassion, empathy, and support for students and colleagues. The Youth EMPOWER group is planning a national school walkout on Wednesday, March 14th at 10 a.m. in every time zone, encouraging students to walk out for 17 minutes — one for every person killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

A walkout on March 14th at TL would occur during tutorial at 10 AM. In an effort to keep everyone informed, I have outlined the steps taken to ensure our students are safe while exercising their rights to freedom of speech, should a walkout be organized.

1) We will do everything we can to try to keep the kids on campus, or walk to the athletic fields/stadium. Likely students will assemble at the front of the school as they did during a previous walkout after the presidential election, or possibly in the outdoor amphitheater area. Due to the fields being torn up they likely will not gather in that area.

2) Students who choose to protest via a walk out will not be stopped by administration and should not be stopped by staff.

3) Students who choose to walk down Nova Albion Way will not be stopped by administration or police. Our county superintendent has notified local law enforcement in regards to potential walkouts in Marin County. Again, I do not anticipate students walking but instead congregating in an area. Students I have met with indicated they would be gathering similar as they did in the past as opposed to walking anywhere.

4) Teachers should mark students absent per our regular attendance policy.

5) Administration will stay with students at all times, even if they decide to walk off campus.

6) We will have a microphone for students to express their feelings if the atmosphere warrants that.

Thank you in advance for your care, concern and trust in the process in supporting our students. I received clarification regarding teachers requesting to accompany their students should an entire class participate in a walkout. Instructions follow:

1) Teachers are expected to report to their classrooms as always.

2) If there are any students in their class (even 1) the teacher is expected to remain in the classroom and continue with the instructional program. They are not to encourage any student to participate in any walkout.

3) After waiting a reasonable amount of time, if there are no students in the teacher’s classroom, the teacher could accompany students outside of the classroom/school, only for the purpose of providing supervision and ensuring student safety. As the time for the next period approaches, teachers are expected to return/report to their classroom for the next class.

4) Administrators are encouraged to accompany students to provide supervision and ensure safety.

Please see me directly if you feel you need assistance or clarification.

Katy Dunlap