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News News News

Students stage protest against war

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About 60 students, in protest of the war, participated in a nation-wide walk out today at noon. The students congregated on the front lawn, and marched around the school twice, chanting anti-war cries.

“Just because I’m anti-war, it doesn’t mean I’m pro-Saddam,” senior Isaac Delgado said at the start of the walk out. Delgado and senior Marty Gibbs led the protestors, but the actual rally was organized last night by seniors Yusra Ghazi and Abby Reiss.

“Last night America started doing some really bad things,” Reiss said. “I was feeling really helpless, and then Yusra called and asked what I was doing about it. So, we decided to organize the rally. I don’t see how you can sit back and not do anything about it. People were asking what the point was, and how the walk out would make a difference. There are people who are going to die tomorrow—how can you ask why?”

Amnesty International member Karolina Kowalczyk was happy with the outcome of the protest.

“I expected more people, but I’m not disappointed because we have a good group here,” Kowalczyk said.

Faculty members also attended the walk out. AV Technician Lance Soltys taped the walk out for the school.

“I think [the walk out] is great. This is what democracy is—what they’re doing,” Soltys said. “It’s a patriotic act to do this.”

Social studies teacher Matt Weatherington looked on from the front steps.

“We do a good job, as a school, teaching procedural democracy, but not participatory democracy,” Weatherington said. “I think it’s being seen today. I’m glad, in a way,



Senior Isaac Delgado speaks to student protesters as Principal Roger Stein looks on. Photo by Becky Bloom

that we didn’t go on with school business as usual. I’m glad at least there was acknowledgement.”

English teacher Paul Wack also attended.

“The students have a right to protest if they act responsibly and accept the consequences,” Wack said.

In opposition to the walk out, a group of pro-war students also met on the front lawn. Senior Steve Dogiakos led the group of about 10 students.

“They’re allowed to voice their opinions,” Dogiakos said of the anti-war students, “and we have our own. People need to realize that there are two sides to this, and I guess, in this case, we’re the silent majority.”

Sophomore Chris Lewallen was more vocal about his opinions.

“I’m pro-war,” Lewallen said, “all the way.”

Sophomore Nala Moshi has experienced the situation in Iraq first hand.

“My dad’s family is from Iraq and I know a lot of things that have been going

on there. I’ve been exposed to a lot more than the anti-war protestors have been,” Moshi said. “I know what’s right, and that’s the war.”

Deans Larry Erickson and Cathy Johnson followed the protestors around the school to ensure students’ safety. While Erickson refused to comment, Johnson said that the consequences for protestors were not as harsh as they were rumored to be.

“Regular school consequences will be enforced,” Johnson said. “This is America and this is freedom. This is why people are fighting in Iraq—to protect these kind of freedoms. It puts a different perspective on things.”

When students walked back into school, IDs were collected. Security Director Roger Garcia and Principal Roger Stein observed the protestors.

“I’m glad to see that students have the courage of their convictions,” Stein said, “and have chosen to protest in a peaceful way to emulate what they want most: peace.”