

## Press Clippings 3/11/2018

---Courier News--- 3/11/18

### **D300 to discipline students who walk out; U46 and D303 support walkout events, officials say**

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

School District 300 students will be disciplined if they leave school Wednesday to participate in a nationwide school walkout against gun violence, officials said, but school districts **U46** and **303** will support walkout participants and have arranged security measures to keep students safe.

District 300 Superintendent Fred Heid has posted a message to students and parents warning there could be ramifications for anyone who violates district policy and goes outside. Instead, administrators at the Algonquin-based district are encouraging students to stay indoors and participate in student-organized events that tie in to the cause.

"Please know that any student who leaves the building will face disciplinary consequence," Heid wrote in his post. "Again, our emphasis is to promote alternative means for students to express their feelings and beliefs related to this issue."

There are other means of social action to support the walkout cause, he said, such as writing letters to elected officials; writing letters of support to students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.; and holding voter registration drives.

Several impromptu walkouts occurred around the country one week after the Feb. 14 mass shooting at the Parkland high school in an attempt to show solidarity with the shooting victims and to call for gun control reform. Plans to organize a national walkout came from the same motivation, with Wednesday's event scheduled for the one-month anniversary of the shooting in which 17 people were killed.

**Elgin-based District U46**, the state's second-largest school district, will allow students to participate in the walkout as long as they remain on school property, officials said.

District **CEO Tony Sanders** called it a "teachable moment" in a note he sent to parents Thursday and posted on the district's website.

"We respect students' rights to free speech," he wrote, adding, "Our role as school and district employees is not to participate in the activities or voice our own political opinions during the school day but to guide students toward research, reflection and advocacy as civic-minded citizens."

School administrators have been directed to set up plans to ensure student safety, Sanders said.

St. Charles School District 303 officials will support students who choose to join in walkouts as well as those who choose not to participate, district spokeswoman Carol Smith said.

Schools will have designated areas where students can gather outside, with administrators providing supervision. The walkouts in St. Charles and elsewhere are expected to last about 17 minutes, one minute for each person who died in the Parkland shooting, Smith said.

"We are also encouraging parents to have age-appropriate conversations with their children about the event and their expectations for their child's behavior on that day," Smith said.

No visitors will be allowed on high school campuses Wednesday, to ensure student safety, she added.

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## **SPORTS SECTION**

**---Courier News--- 3/11/18**

### **Victory for Victor: Perez sinks pivotal 3-pointer as Larkin wins sectional title**

BY BOB NARANG



Larkin coach Deryn Carter celebrates Friday's Class 4A Jacobs Sectional championship win over Rockford Jefferson. (Brian O'Mahoney/The Courier-News)

Victor Perez's role for Larkin has changed numerous times throughout the season.

The junior guard opened up as the sixth man, then at the midway point became the second reserve off the bench for the Royals.

"It's been a big adjustment, but I still play hard and do what I can to help the team win," Perez said. "I just kept my head up."

Perez certainly had his head in the game Friday night against Rockford Jefferson. He buried a pivotal 3-pointer with just over three minutes left as Larkin hung on for a 60-55 victory in the Class 4A Jacobs Sectional final.

"As a coach, you battle whether to keep playing aggressive or try and kill clock, but Victor's three was big after Jefferson made a comeback," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "(Victor) hasn't shot it well all season, but he's had a great regional and sectional. He's been working hard at it."

Once again, Larkin's duo of Anthony Lynch and Jalen Shaw handled the bulk of the scoring.

Lynch finished with 24 points and Shaw added 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Royals (23-8), who advanced to the program's first supersectional since 2004-05.

Larkin will face Benet (27-4) at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Northern Illinois Supersectional. Terry Ford scored 16 points for the J-Hawks (26-7).

Carter confirmed it's been a long ride to the Elite Eight. In his first season, the Royals won just four games in 2010-11. Carter said Rockford Jefferson's late 11-0 run was a fitting theme for his tenure.

"When we took over nine years ago, the program was in bad shape, but the kids believed," Carter said. "I'm so proud of the kids to not lose the lead. It needed to happen this way and more special. The rough road is better and made it more sweeter."

Perez made two 3-pointers to finish with six points. Almost fittingly, he buried his final three from the corner, right in front of Larkin's bench, to extend the lead to 55-42.

"I wanted to make that shot from the corner so bad, to just make a play to help us win," Perez said.

Jefferson proceeded to make its next four shots to slice the deficit to 55-53.

Lynch then grabbed a loose ball under Larkin's basket and scored with 58 seconds left. After a missed 3-pointer by Jefferson, Perez made another key play. He grabbed the defensive rebound and tossed the ball up the court.

"We made a lot of plays at the end of the game," Lynch said. "It wasn't easy for us. We had several people step up in the final minute."

*Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.*