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## **SCS Participation in the National School Walkout**

Some erroneous information was circulated in the media and online yesterday about how Staunton City Schools is participating in the National School Walkout today, so I'm taking a moment to clarify our participation in this event.

1. Shelburne Middle and Lee High administrators are supporting student-led walkouts happening at 9:30 a.m. at Shelburne and 1:15 p.m. at Lee. Again: the walkouts are student-led. The students have chosen how they will conduct the walkout and where. They expressly requested that their walkouts occur out of the public eye, without the presence of the media. I'm supportive of their wishes, as are all of our administrators.
2. No parent has been told they cannot attend the walkout in Staunton schools. Parents are welcome in our schools. While we have not encouraged parents to attend, we have not barred parents from participating in the walkout with their child.
3. We value all student voices and support them in raising their voices for causes in which they believe. We are grateful to have leaders in our student body who demonstrate their ability to make a meaningful impact on our community each day. Please do not underestimate our students.
4. Today, we stand in solidarity with the survivors of the Parkland shooting and their families. We send them our love and support as they heal and strive for a safer and brighter future. We share their commitment to ensuring that every student is protected and safe at school. In our school board meeting on Monday night, we discussed our partnership with the Staunton Police Department and additional measures we are putting in place to reinforce school safety.

Finally, if you ever have a question or concern about what we're doing in Staunton City Schools, please don't hesitate to contact my office or the office of your school's principal. We would be glad to share as much information with you as possible. Thank you.

Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent  
Staunton City Schools