

Seeking solace in the wake of Samohi brawl

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SAMOHİ — Hundreds of parents met with school officials on Monday asking how safety will be ensured on campus in the wake of a school yard rumble that caused the high school to go into lockdown Friday.

School officials acknowledged trouble was brewing late in the morning on Friday when several fights broke out on the Santa Monica High School campus. Then, at least five fights involving dozens of Latino and black students broke out at lunchtime before the Santa Monica Police were called in at 12:44 and the principal announced over the PA system that lunch was ending early.

A lockdown lasted the remainder of the school day. Between 30 and 40 students refused to return to

class until police threatened arrests.

School officials said injuries resulting from the melee were limited to bloody faces and noses, and no weapons were involved. Although several suspected participants in the fights were detained so parents could pick them up during the lockdown, police said no arrests have been made. Once the lockdown occurred, school administrators released students by class in an orderly manner, with Santa Monica, Culver City and Beverly Hills police on hand to secure the campus.

There were no reported fights on Monday, and school officials said additional police units will be available to Samohi as the school continues to deal with racial tensions.

More than 500 parents, school representatives and media crews attended the Monday meeting at

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