

A January Meeting Review

by Paul Bailey, CRN Board of Directors

Susan Armoni and Robert Gonzalez of paxUnited spoke on bringing peacemaking (i.e. peer mediation) skills to schools.

Students are trained to mediate disputes between students and between students and teachers. The age range for training covers students from elementary to high school. They seem to have demonstrated significant impact at schools with the program. External evaluations support a very high solution rate with hints of cultural changes at target schools. The key problems have been keeping follow-up processes in place and ensuring the schools continue to provide administrative support for the program.

They presented a short video and then discussed funding issues and issues arising from the arrangements made with schools.

An extended Q&A followed. Some issues discussed were funding (always an issue), lobbying and bringing the business community into the process.

More information on paxUnited may be found at <http://www.paxunited.org>.

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