

District Gender & Sexuality Alliance

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

4:00 – 5:00 pm

GVSD Board office, Annex Conference Room

1. Welcome and Introductions - Name, School, Preferred Pronouns
2. School Updates

Cedar Hill: each day last week students from our GSA would read out a fact about Rainbow Week.

On Wednesday, 'International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia' our GSA students offered rainbow face painting at lunch recess.

The grade 6 leadership class assigned each classroom a colour to wear on Wednesday and we stood in rows on the side field to create a school wide photo of a rainbow. Mady from Outlet/Youth Empowerment has attended the last two lunch time GSA meetings to discuss her pilot project with our students.

We are looking into taking a group of students from Cedar Hill to read some elementary level books to primary students that cover awareness and acceptance.

Books suggested:

Red: A Crayon Story
And Tango Makes Three
The Family Book
10,000 Dresses
My Princess Boy

Esquimalt: Jen Wignall has taken over for her husband. The float trailer is ready to go for the Pride Parade. The gender neutral washroom sign has been installed.

Trustee: Jordan attended the luncheon hosted by MP Randall Garrison. Every year, to commemorate the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia Randall invites local members of the LGBTQ community and their allies to a brunch that he hosts. This is an informal and casual event, which Randall hosts as a way to give back to the community, listen to their stories, and be informed of their legislative needs and priorities. Randall and other guest speakers provided updates on the work of those politicians and community activists who are working to further the rights and equity of LGBTQ people. There were a number of our students represented and we are looking to grow that number for next year.

Lambrick Park: the Lambrick Park PAC is considering a \$1000 donation to the GSA. They are looking at bringing Out in Schools to Lambrick Park next year and it would be great if other schools could support as well. The group had been busy with YCI so a planned bake sale for Rainbow Week had been postponed for the following week. Gordon Head Rec Centre drop-in remains ongoing.

Rockheights: the Love is Love panel is ready to be displayed. The Rainbow Pride Group organized a rainbow t-shirt day - everyone wore a different coloured t-shirt representing the rainbow and tattoos were handed out. Members of the group visited classrooms to share their personal story.

Willows: grades 3, 4 and 5 were celebrating Rainbow Week. Announcements were read to students explaining what Rainbow Week was.

Reynolds: the PAC gave money to the GSA for their school banner. Teachers are using positive/inclusive language. For the Reynolds 50th Anniversary Celebration, bulletin boards were set up covering the 50 years Reynolds has been around and the GSA's involvement in those years was included. The last week included an International Awareness focus on promotion of human rights.

Vic High: as a way to increase student involvement, Vic High may merge the GSA and YCI groups for September. The principal of Vic High will be attending the Pride Parade with a couple of students. The PAC had donated money for the school's banner for the parade. There have been a number of ISP students attending meetings expressing how their own countries treat gay people.

Healthy Schools: all GSA notes, upcoming activities and relevant information are posted on the Healthy Schools Website.

<https://healthyschools.sd61.bc.ca/>

The Balancing Our Minds youth summit was held on May 4th and it was a tremendous success.

Gender Expression & Gender Identity Policy Update: a staff member from every school was involved in an in-service for the policy. Ambit Gender Diversity Consulting provided the in-service and more events are planned for the next school year. Everyone in attendance was appreciative of the information.

3. Guiding Question

4. Pride Parade Planning

The trailer for our parade float is ready to go. Chris will rent a truck and be our driver. The trailer will be decorated on July 8th, Saturday, at noon at Esquimalt High

School prior to Sunday's parade. It will include our district banner. Harold will look into purchasing coloured t-shirts for participants.

5. List of Books to Consider for Teacher Librarians:

Mitchel Du Plessis has sent a list of potential books that our Teacher Librarians may wish to consider purchasing. The link below contains the list.

<http://bookriot.com/?p=125912>

Adjourn 5:00 pm

Meeting Dates for 2017/18 School Year
(Locations to be determined):

September 20, 2016	School Board Office
October 25, 2016	
November 22, 2016	
January 24, 2017	
February 21, 2017	
April 18, 2017	
May 23, 2017	School Board Office