

# District Gender & Sexuality Alliance

## Notes

Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
4:00 – 5:00 pm  
Mt Douglas High School – Library

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

**Oak Bay:** will be hosting the Love is Love Conference to be held on the May 19th pro-d-day.

Students are going to present the new Gender Identity and Gender Expression Policy at a staff meeting.

Making some posters for school to normalize GSA language

**Lambrick Park:** had Purple Shirt Day (Spirit Day) on October 20<sup>th</sup>. GSA club wore purple shirts and had face painting available for others. Going to have a bake sale to pay for the shirts.

Gordon Head Recreation is going to implement a Queer Youth night which will be open to all students.

**Esquimalt:** gave out rainbow cookies to promote the GSA club. Had a low turnout for the first meeting. Appears that there is a large number of students in YCI that would also want to be in GSA.

Have identified washrooms for use by everyone.

**Mt Doug:** Also gave out cookies and made posters with slogans to promote the GSA club

**Vic High:** QSA club meets on Mondays and YCI meets on Fridays, again a lot of the same students. Have 13 members so far with a lot of grade 9's. Working on ideas to promote club.

**Campus View:** looking at starting a group for younger children, wondering if there is a school that could host. May need to be in the evenings.

**Cedar Hill:** Had their first GSA meeting which will be held on Fridays. Wondering where students that change in the gender neutral washroom for PE could store their clothes. It was suggested they get some hooks in the washroom, students take clothes back to their locker or store somewhere in the gym (storage area).

**Carrie Ann Taylor:** International students are a group that we have typically overlooked. We should make an effort to reach out to these students to see if they are interested in joining the GSA clubs. Should also consider educating homestay guardians.

**Group discussion** regarding washrooms and signage. The suggestion of having signs that say "This washroom is for Everyone" was brought to the group, many felt that this was a good option. However it was also brought up that a simple sign that said "Washroom" would be a welcome alternative.

### 3. Guiding Question

A wonderful friend/educator/queer activist from my cohort, Lindsay Cavanaugh, published a paper about "queer affirming" vs. "queer safe" spaces this past year, and I was wondering if I could share it with the GSA group? <https://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/arbutus/article/view/15690>

Kelle spoke briefly about the difference between queer safe spaces and queer affirming spaces and that we should be aspiring to the latter. This conversation requires further discussion.

### Year Ahead Planning

- Love is Love Conference: will be at Oak Bay. Matt Treble would like to remain involved.
- Pride Parade: Chris Wignall reminded us that Esquimalt has a trailer that would make a great float.
- Anti-Homophobia/Transphobia Week: we are asking that people share potential resources for this event that can be sent out to our schools. Harold will collect these resources.

Adjourn 5:00 pm

Meeting Dates and confirmed locations:

September 20, 2016	School Board Office
October 25, 2016	Mt. Doug
November 22, 2016	Esquimalt
January 24, 2017	Oak Bay
February 21, 2017	Lambrick Park
April 18, 2017	Rockheights
May 23, 2017	School Board Office