AUSD LGBTQ Round Table

Meeting Minutes for September 25, 2014

**Attendance:** Susan Davis, Terri Elkin, Anne Faria-Poynter, Olivia Higgins, Gene Kahane, Daniel McCormick, Henry Villareal,

Introductions & Welcome to 2 new members: Susan Davis, Senior Manager of Community Affairs at AUSD, and Encinal student representative, Daniel McCormick

**Minutes Discussion**– Minutes will be sent out electronically. Hardcopies will no longer be printed for meetings. Anne will re-send minutes from previous mtg. Attending members will have one week from the day minutes are sent to voice approval or request changes. Final notes will be sent as a PDF file to Terri who will post on the AUSD LGBTQ RT section of the AUSD website.

**Sign-In:** Terri will file a sign-in for each RT meeting.

**Web Updates:** Sean C. and Terri revised history description on web. We can have RT button on the home page of the AUSD website. We discussed the name of this link and decided on: “LGBTQ Resources & Information.”

**Discussion highlights:**

a. Should we also put a link to our section under student resources? It was mentioned that students don’t access the AUSD webpage very frequently, or at all.

b. Susan mentioned that we also utilize the “Spotlight” on homepage of AUSD website with timely information such as: LGBTQ History Month proclamation, highlights of events, etc. RT members would have to let her know if/when we want something posted in this section and what the wording should be.

c. We can also utilize the District newsletter/bulletin board to share information. Gene will connect with Susan about the LGBTQ movie event to discuss the possibility of highlighting event in the newsletter.

d. Terri and Susan will take the lead in posting the PDF mtg. minutes.

e. We need to update the policy information. The policy info should come directly from information on the California Board of Education website or/and generated from AUSD.

f. Susan and Terri will meet to follow up on reviewing website, including the policy information that should be posted.

**AUSD RT BIOS for Website:**

- Updated bios and photos need to be sent to Terri by October 2nd.
- New bios for Daniel, Henry, Susan, and Gene with a photo should be provided by October 2\textsuperscript{nd}.

2. **LGBTQ History Month AUSD Proclamation**
Proclamation Update:
Gene attended the School Board mtg. on Tuesday to hear the LGBTQ History month proclamation. Sean M. and Sean C. made some comments about our work. LGBTQ Proclamation is now routine versus “special attention.”

Discussion:
In the future, we can encourage a student to speak on our behalf at board meetings.

3. LGBTQ History Month Activities at Encinal Update:

Gene updated us about Encinal’s efforts to show the short film, “Facing Fear” during LGBTQ History month. Gene and Alexis Odgie reached out to Alameda High GSA to discuss collaborating on this project, but have not yet had a response. If time permits, Gene will outreach to ASTI and Island High as well.

“Facing Fear” will be viewed/discussed via the English classes. Gene is working on details and will ask for support from other RT members as needed. Help might include facilitating class discussions.

Cost for this project will be around $300. Gene reached out to Barbara Adams who suggested the school pay those fees. Using Harvey Milk day funds for this event would require a discussion with the Harvey Milk committee for approval.

Gene shared copies of “Two Boys Kissing” w/his English teacher colleagues. Gene applied for a PTSA mini grant to purchase the book to pilot this lesson in his class. Students have expressed mixed reactions when told they might be reading this book.

Discussion:
 a. Maybe this book could be part of history month next year?
 b. Fish bowl discussion with students and staff after student view Facing Fear and/or read Two Boys Kissing. Could that be filmed?

4. AEA Meeting and LGBTQ Support
 a. Sean C. sent an email to Audrey Hyman, Olivia Higgins, Sandy Wong, and Terri Elkin about setting up a meeting to discuss the AEA Event.

5. Teacher Leader Update – Terri and Olivia met to discuss the TL program, Olivia gave a budget to Steven Fong, which needs to be reviewed and updated. Terri is concerned about teacher burnout and expressed a need for principal support. A PSA would need to go to the board for approval for Olivia’s contract to implement this work.

Discussion:
a. Maybe we can have regional ambassadors who could do the work for multiple schools rather than 1 Liaison per site.
b. Principal support/buy-in is important. RT members should reach out to the principals they work with to determine their level of support for this program.
c. Informal conversations with principals should include asking for their ideas on the best ways to train all teachers.
d. Anne and Gene will reach out to their principals to find out their interest in this work.
e. HS accreditation self-study/ WASC. Can we include LGBTQ sensitivity training under culture and community in HS accreditation and self-study?
f. If an individual school is not on board with identifying a TL, perhaps it would be helpful if a student shared their perspective on the need for this program to encourage participation.

6. Pride, Prom, and Community Photography Exhibit Update. Olivia distributed flyers about a photo exhibit that highlights the history of the Hayward Gay Prom and Pride events.

   Discussion:
   g. Maybe a portion of the exhibit could be put on display at a school, library or Books Inc.?
   h. Encinal is hosting a peace week that highlights different groups of people. Maybe this exhibit could be part of that event?
   i. Olivia will invite Sandy to the next meeting to discuss collaboration.
   j. The exhibit could also be part of another event such as: Peace week, Day of Silence, LGBTQ History Month.
   k. Maybe those who attend the exhibit could bring their own prom or pride photos to display.

7. Curriculum Updates –
   LA HS LGBTQ Lessons: Olivia spoke with Sara Train who is leading the LA LGBTQ History lessons that AUSD might pilot in the Spring. Sara said they are still working on final edits on the lessons and the fees associated with this work. Once we get this information, we will determine if AUSD will pilot these lessons.

   ES Links to Literature Lessons: We are currently identifying which of the books in this curriculum are still available and which ones are no longer in circulation. Other next steps include identifying and reviewing any new books we might want to include or replace outdated books.

   Discussion:
   a. If we make changes to the books we will likely need board approval.
b. Board approval will likely not be necessary, if we update the lessons to reflect the Common Core and update the vocabulary. Terri will research what updates would require Board approval and which updates wouldn’t.

c. It might be helpful to purchase any potential new books so we may review them.

d. “The Boy with the Pink Hair” was suggested to include in the review.

8. Alameda Family Services - Olivia informed the group that Alameda Family Services recently hired Sb McKenna who will be coordinating an LGBTQ community group. Olivia will invite Sb to join the RT.

9. GSA Encinal - Daniel updated us about the work he is doing with the Encinal GSA. There are approximately 50 student members. They are looking for activities to lead and have already set up a joint Encinal and Alameda High movie night.

Discussion:
   a. Maybe the GSA could share facilitate a discussion at elementary schools?
   b. It would be helpful if Daniel provided an update at each RT meeting so we can provide support as needed.

Other Updates:
Jim in no longer part of the RT. What about Laura Rose?

Sean Cahill will be receiving the volunteer award at Everything Alameda at Washington on Saturday, September 27th at exactly 12. Congratulations!!