

SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION MEETING MINUTES

Tues, March 15, 2011, 3-5 p.m.

Chair: Frieda Takamura Recorder: Penny Palmer.

1. **Attending:** Frieda Takamura, SSC Co-Chair; Penny Palmer SSC Co-Sec. and Intervention Coordinator; Michelle Monroe SSC Treasurer, Briana Herman-Brand, SSC Speaker's Bureau Manager; Tracy Flynn, Welcoming Schools Coordinator Pacific Northwest; Via phone: Gabi Clayton, SSC Web Spinner; Jeff Soder, O.S.P.I., School Safety Supervisor

2. Welcoming Schools – Tracy Flynn

Tracy Flynn gave us some background and current information on the HRC's Welcoming Schools Project. The project and guide focus on elementary schools and address all kinds of bullying including LGBT issues. It was published in 2009 and hopefully will share materials on the OSPI student's page. It was also suggested that Tracy look into coordinating with O.E.A. (Office of the Educational Ombudsman). Some of the information Tracy shared:

The Welcoming Schools Guide is a comprehensive approach that facilitates the creation of fully inclusive, respectful and supportive elementary school environments for all students and their families.

The Welcoming Schools Guide focuses on three areas linked to academic learning school climate and family involvement:

Embrace Family Diversity: The guide outlines school and community-based strategies to welcome students from a variety of families, including families headed by LGBT parents, single parents, foster parents, grandparents, etc.

Avoid Gender Stereotyping: Students who do not adhere to traditional gender roles are often targeted for harassment - even in early elementary school grades - and stereotypes can constrict children's academic and social successes. The guide addresses ways in which children are pressured to conform to gender roles and stereotypes, and strategies for change.

End Name Calling: Hurtful teasing, name-calling and bullying affect everyone: targets, perpetrators and bystanders. The guide takes a systemic approach to school change, providing tools to engage all members of the school community through parent involvement, faculty education and classroom strategies.

The guide is inclusive of all kinds of families and addresses multiple forms of bias-based bullying, especially in the lesson plans for students. At the same time, the materials in the guide intended for adults have an intentional emphasis on including LGBT-headed families and children who don't conform to gender norms as well as addressing anti-gay name-calling and bullying. Few resources exist to help educators address these topics in schools and this guide is a resource to help fill this gap. The lives of children and families can only be fully affirmed when the full diversity of the members of our school communities are named and included. Therefore, this guide includes diversity related to race, religion, family structure, socioeconomic status, national origin and physical abilities and disabilities.

The Welcoming Schools Guide is based on research that shows links among academic achievement, social-emotional well-being and an inclusive school climate.

The Objectives of the Welcoming Schools Guide are to Help Schools:

- a. Improve school climate so that all students and families feel safe and welcome
- b. Increase family involvement
- c. Improve students' academic achievement
- d. Teach respect and diversity that includes LGBT topics in the context of the full range of diversity in our schools

3. Law & Policy Work Group - Lonnie Johns-Brown, WCSAP

I. HB 1163: Prime Sponsor, Rep. Lias. Would require OSPI and OEO to convene an ongoing school bullying and harassment prevention workgroup to develop recommend and implement strategies to improve school climate and create respectful learning environments in public schools. The Superintendent of OSPI (or designee) as chair. The workgroup must: a) consider whether additional disaggregated data on incidents of bullying and harassment should be collected and make recommendations to OSPI on data collection; b) examine procedures for anonymous reporting of incidents; c) identify curriculum and best practices for improving school climate; d) incorporate instruction about mental health, youth suicide prevention, and prevention of bullying and harassment and train staff and students in de-escalation techniques; e) recommend best practices for informing and involving parents; f) recommend training for school district contacts; g) recommend pre-services training for educators; h) examine and recommend policies to discipline of students and staff; i) examine and recommend policies to protect K-12 students attending community and technical colleges from harassment and bullying, in collaboration with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The workgroup includes representatives from the State Board of Education, the WA PTA, school directors and administrators, school staff, youth, community organizations and parents, two members of the state House of Representatives and two members of the state Senate. A biennial report is required beginning 12-1-11. The SBCTC and HEC board must compile and analyze college and university policies regarding harassment, intimidation and bullying prevention. Each must submit a report to the Education and Higher Education Committees of the Legislature with recommendations by 12-1-12. Starting July 1, 2012, issues of mental health and suicide prevention education are included in health and fitness learning standards for purposes of classroom based assessments. Status: bill passed the House and has a hearing in Senate Early Learning and K-12 on Thursday, March 17th at 1:30 in the John A. Cherberg building, hearing room 1. Action: Members of the Senate EL and K-12 Committee should be contacted this week and asked to support HB 1163.

II. Youth Suicide Prevention funding: the Governor's proposed 2011-13 budget would eliminate half the 375,000 per biennium in state dollars going to youth suicide prevention. These are the only state dollars dedicated to this purpose. The next revenue forecast is expected on March 17th, if the House is targeting March 22nd as the release date for their biennial budget proposal. **Action: all members of the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees should be contacted now to support protecting the current funding for Youth Suicide Prevention.**

III. SB 5639: includes language that would abolish the Office of the Education Ombudsman. This office resolves complaints before they turn into expensive lawsuits for parents and schools. It collects statewide data and is slated to play a key role in Hb 1163, the anti-bullying legislation. Suggested action: Oppose the inclusion on language to abolish OEO in SB 5639. Status: this bill is still in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. It could still see action if it is deemed necessary to implement the budget.

Jeff Soder – OSPI on HB 1163 One goal is to have an ongoing work group to monitor/work on bills containing bullying legislation.

4. Intervention Team Report – Penny Palmer

There were 17 calls that came in from the KCSARC line.

a. New cases – We have one in WA concerning a transgender child changing to a new school to avoid harassment regarding name and gender change. Father requested help and support for the transition to the new school.

b. Continuing case in Miss. – It is still a problem as mother must go to meetings with the district alone. Gabi and Jim have given me number of possible help for her in Mississippi.

Call from Missouri- A student was being harassed/bullied on a school bus.

Call from Illinois – A mother called because her daughter is being harassed at school.

Call from Wisconsin – A request for info. on tracking bullying, new bullying laws etc. He will call back when more info. is available.

c. Ongoing – The private school records request still has not been settled. It looks like we will need to take the request to the principals/schools supervisor.

d. Lisa Kelly - Director, Children and Youth Advocacy Clinic (CAYAC), University of Washington School of Law. Lisa contacted me to discuss possible referrals for her clinic, which will be starting next fall. The Children and Youth Advocacy Clinic is a 12-credit course that is spread out during the full academic year at the UW Law School. It begins late September and ends late May, early June. Students work under faculty supervision to provide clients in the community with quality legal services. Lisa is hoping to begin next year to include queer youth advocacy in their work and has asked for suggestions on possible topics.

e. A special welcome to Jeani Krogstad and Greg Brisendine who will be joining the Intervention Specialist team.

5. Budget Report - Michelle Monroe, SSC Treasurer

SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF 3/15/2011

Date	Income	Expenses	Category
1/22/2011	\$360.00		donation
1/26/2011	\$29,176.27		balance from Life Long
1/28/2011	\$175.00		donation
2/1/2011	\$4.00		order
2/10/2011	\$25.00		donation
2/10/2011	\$141.31		donation
2/10/2011	\$100.00		membership
2/10/2011	\$85.00		renewal
2/10/2011	\$60.00		renewal
2/10/2011	\$210.00		donation
2/10/2011	\$20.00		donation
2/14/2011	\$60.00		renewal
2/15/2011	\$8.00		order
2/23/2011	\$40.00		order
3/1/2011		-\$1,500.00	Administrative
3/2/2011		-\$60.00	speakers bureau
3/3/2011	\$947.00		balance from LLAA
3/3/2011		-\$77.00	Administrative
3/7/2011		-\$1,046.00	speakers bureau
3/9/2011		-\$119.37	Administrative
3/10/2011	\$75.00		Speakers
3/11/2011	\$46.50		donation
3/11/2011	\$20.00		donation

3/14/2011	\$75.00		renewal
3/14/2011	\$25.00		donation
3/15/2011	\$15.00		donation
Totals	\$31,308.08	-\$2,802.37	\$28,505.71

**6. Speakers Bureau Report – Briana Herman-Brand
Speakers Bureau & Training Team Manager Report**

Date:	Location:	Trainers:	Audience Total:
2/18	Southern Heights Elementary	Kari K	
2/22	YMCA Foster Care	Tracy & Kari	
3/11	Notre Dame AmeriCorps	Briana & Nathan	16

Upcoming: UW Bothell 3/17
WEA Training 3/19
Bush School 3/23
Garfield High School 4/13

Outreach – Outreach suggestions needed

Upcoming: Edmonds United Methodist Church

Brianna also mentioned Uniting Communities out of Western States Center.
http://www.westernstatescenter.org/our-work/uniting_communities

7. Web Site Report – Gabi

Membership committee:

I am in the process of sending out invoices. I have not had any memberships or renewals come in digitally which are the ones I would see automatically. I know of at least three that said they were sending memberships in that probably sent in checks and there may be more, but I haven't heard about that yet.

Web stuff:

Related to the website, Safe Schools Coalition has been given a two year Non-Profit or Educational Account from SurveyMethods.com which can be used to create polls and surveys. The donation is worth \$936 (\$39.00 a month) Let me know if you want information about this, and see <http://www.surveymethods.com/>

Thanks Gabi for getting this.

Website Report:

Total Hits 233,391

Total Page Views 45,380

Total Visitors 30,202
Average Visitors per Day 1,078
Total Unique IP's 14,873

Listserv:

We have new listserv subscribers, since our last meeting, from: Gainesville FL,
Tallahassee FL, Seattle WA, Maplewood MN, Grand Rapids MI, Columbia Heights MN,
Rochester Hills MI, and Toronto ON Canada.

Website Report:

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Average Visitors per Day 1,478
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Countries & # of Visitors.

United States 23,129 (76.58%), Unknown 't, 640, France 1,046, China 999, Russian
Federation 753, Canada 496, United Kingdom 266, Sweden 139, Australia 139,
Germany 134, Switzerland 129, Singapore 122, Hong Kong 99, Japan 87, India 82,
Italy 65, Philippines 63, South Africa 55,
Netherlands 52, Spain 46, New Zealand 41, Indonesia 39, Poland 34,
Ukraine 31, Brazil 23, Greece 22, Malaysia 20, Tuvalu 20, Korea 19, United Arab
Emirates 18, Ireland 17, Romania, Finland 16, Norway 15,
Latvia 14, Israel 14, Kuwait 13, Hungary 13, Taiwan 13, Lithuania 13,
Czechia 12, Belgium 11, Denmark 10, Saudi Arabia 10, Portugal 10,
Bulgaria 9, Chile 9, Turkey 9, Mexico 9, Venezuela 9, Austria 8, Ghana 6, Thailand 6,
Bahamas 6, Estonia 5, Moldova 5, Luxembourg 5, Slovakia 4,
Colombia 4, Yemen 4, Pakistan 4, Iran 4, Egypt 4, Morocco 4, Malta 3,
Cote d'Ivoire 3, Vietnam 3, Croatia 3, Argentina 3, Oman 3, Lebanon 3,
Ecuador 3, Antigua and Barbuda 2, New Caledonia 2, Puerto Rico 2,
Namibia 2, Virgin Islands (US) 2, Trinidad and Tobago 2, Brunei Darussalam 2, Serbia
and Montenegro 2, Cyprus 2, Ethiopia 2, Uzbekistan 2, Kenya 2, Slovenia 2,
Macedonia 2, Jordan 2, Bahrain 2,
Uruguay 1, Sudan 1, Zambia 1, Eritrea 1, Cuba 1, Fiji 1, Guatemala 1,

Georgia 1, Belize 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina 1, Azerbaijan 1, Barbados 1,
Belarus 1, Bhutan 1, Guam 1, Nigeria 1, Mongolia 1, Panama 1,
Palestinian Territory 1, Peru 1, Sri Lanka 1, Haiti 1, Honduras 1, Iceland 1
Cambodia 1, Jamaica 1

8. Asian Community Leadership Foundation project partnership request

The ACLF has requested possible project ideas for this year's group projects. Group projects are intended to enhance ACLF session curriculum by providing an opportunity for experiential learning through a collaborative, team orientated approach focused on an outcome that benefits Asian Pacific Islanders and the greater community. Beth, Michelle and Frieda volunteered to work together to suggest possible ideas. **If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Beth, Michelle or Frieda.**

Upcoming Meetings

Contact the chair if you have agenda items or need instructions about meeting logistics. Everyone is welcome and you do not need to be an SSC member to attend. Meetings are 3-5 p.m. at Planned Parenthood on Madison in Seattle

Mar. 15 – Chair, Frieda (ftakamura08@gmail.com); Recorder, Penny
Apr. 19 – Chair, Stefanie (stefaniefox@gmail.com); Recorder, Penny
May 17 – Chair, Heather M (hmurphy@u.washington.edu); Recorder, Frank