

Minutes 2-17-09, 3-5 p.m. PST
Safe Schools Coalition Meeting
Chairing: Beth Reis; Recording: Heather Carter
HELP NEEDED requests are in RED.

In attendance:

In person: Heather **Carter**, Youth Suicide Prevention Program & co-secretary for Safe Schools Coalition (SSC); Hanna **King**, Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, Empowerment Project and Garfield High School Gay Straight Alliance; Jorge **Sanchez**, Casey Family Programs; Heather **Riley**, Casey; Kyle **Rapinan**, Casey; Riana **Hensel**, Puget Sound Community School; Matt **Munson**, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest; Beth **Reis**, Public Health-Seattle/King County, co-chair of SSC; Helen **Stillman**, SSC speakers bureau manager; Frieda **Takamura**, co-chair of SSC

By phone: Jonathan **Long**, Queer Straight Alliance @ University of Washington Tacoma Campus; Marsha **Botzer**, SSC co-chair and Ingersoll Gender Center; Gabi **Clayton**, PFLAG Olympia, Families United Against Hate, Youth Guardian Services, and SSC Webspinner

(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/CONSULTATION – Beth, Frieda

for Oregon Education Association, re: anti-bullying laws and policies
for Human Rights Campaign, re: what a Welcoming Schools web site could include
for the WA Governor's Education Ombudsman, re: their web site
for a dad on his CA district's Bullying Prevention Committee, re: successful procedures
for King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, re: their teen dating violence bookmarks
for COLAGE, re: model policies
for an elementary school teacher looking for a way for elementary teachers to network

(2) RAPID RESPONSE CONVENING – Heather, Beth

It looks like Heather Carter will be representing Safe Schools at this meeting. The group is convening a 'rapid response network' that can come to the aid of school districts under attack by the right wing for having LGBT-inclusive policies, programs, or curricula. The past several years have seen some school districts back down from inclusive programs, and safe schools advocates routinely encounter fears of a backlash for addressing LGBT issues. In the coming months, we seek to figure out how our already-existing networks and resources can be mobilized at the right time to provide the support these districts need to continue creating inclusive and welcoming environments for all students and families.

(3) SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT – Helen

a) RECENT:

Janet provided training for Eastmont HS in East Wenatchee
Panels: Vashon MS, McKinney Vento Conference, Garfield HS, United Methodist Church gathering

b) UPCOMING:

- Panel for a 5-6:30 pm community workshop tentatively entitled "LGBTQ Issues in K-12 Schools" on **Feb 26th** in **Pullman, WA**, sponsored by the Gender Identity/ Expression & Sexual Orientation Resource Center at WSU
- Full-day workshop entitled "Sexual Diversity in Schools" on **Feb 27th** also in **Pullman** at WSU, for school employees, and faculty and students from colleges of education
- Full-day pre-conference institute at the White Privilege Conference in **Memphis, April 1st**
- Washington State Bullying Conference organizing
- Reading Corps
- AS #1 Middle School

(4) ANTI-RACISM WORK GROUP REPORT – Joy and Helen

The next anti-racism committee meeting is Monday 3/9 from 5-7 @ Kaladi Bros Coffee, 511 E. Pike St. **This is a great subcommittee to get involved in-especially if you live in the Seattle area and can't make the monthly SSC meetings.**

(5) LAW & POLICY WORK GROUP REPORT – Josh, Lonnie, Beth

You can find information on all bills being considered in Washington @ www.leg.wa.gov

Hearing on HB 2015, which would enhance anti-harassment efforts in schools, went well – We helped identify folks from the disability community to testify and Beth testified that SSC hears from students and families who do not know where to turn for help with bullying.

HB 1612/ SB 5629, the “Proven Programs Act,” which would allow state agencies to seek funding for only those pregnancy prevention programs that are medically and scientifically accurate and evidence-based... is now supported by PP, NARAL, ACLU, NOW, Public Health – Seattle & King County and the NW Women's Law Center. Right now, states must seek funding for all pregnancy prevention programs, even those that have not proven beneficial

c) Other bills that may be of interest to our members:

- HB 1643 Regarding harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies and practices at regional universities
- HB 1193 Creating a program to allow youth to preregister to vote
- The domestic partnership measures are Senate Bill 5688 and House Bill 1727.
- The marriage bill is Senate Bill 5674.
- **A Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (or “ENDA”) has NOT been introduced yet.** Now would be the time – with Congress newly sworn in -- to let your congressperson and senators know how you feel about the inclusion or exclusion of protection for the transgender community.
- Foster care related bill:
- Foster care to 21 (HB 1961), Independent Youth Housing Program (HB 1492), Notification Rights for Youth in Foster Care (SB 5758), Legal Representation for Foster Youth 12 and Older (HB 1183 & SB 5609)
- The WEA opposes The Basic Funding Bill (HB 1410 & SB 5444) because it has no funding attached to it.

(6) MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Gabi

New member applications: **Queer-Straight Alliance at the University of Washington Tacoma- WELCOME!** A unanimous vote! They have been experiencing multiple issues on campus: they're the only queer focused group, issues with marginalization of GLBTQ students, double booked w/other events, one student complained that there wasn't enough GLBT focused classes and the response was “We have that class on AIDS”.

Thank you to another org that has renewed recently for 2009, saving us mailing an invoice!! That would be **Safe Schools of Wyoming**. Thanks, Mark.

Progress on invoicing member orgs?

Please, if you represent a member org or an org that *should* be a member of the Safe Schools Coalition, save us having to contact you to remind you to renew or join. Renew or join for 2009 online right now: <https://anauel.youth-guard.org/safeschools/member-org.asp> (Don't worry -- you don't need your agency's credit card – you can ask, right on the form, to have an invoice sent to you!)

Kathy is working on a draft letter for renewals

Stefanie is working on consolidating the database

(7) SPECIAL EVENTS

NW Premiere of *Straightlaced*. -- Riana

Groundspark needs this event to be a fundraiser so there will be a fee, but well worth it! Ticket revenue will be shared equally by Groundspark and Safe Schools Coalition because expenses are being generously covered by a grant to Groundspark from the Rainier Foundation. This planning group has met twice now and has set the date for possibly the weekend of 5/16 & 17. Jason from 3 Dollar Bill Cinema is helping with a venue that will be accessible and desirable to youth & teachers. **HELP NEEDED: Join this great planning group and help with publicity and with staffing the venue on the night of the show! The next meeting will be 2/26 @ 430 at Seattle Counseling for Sexual Minorities offices and will be meeting every other THU from now until the event.**

Laugh OUT Loud comedy night – Save the Date!! -- June 23rd – Kyle

Kyle will be attempting to put an announcement for this event in the calendar sections of SGN, the Stranger, Seattle Times, & the PI. He will also look at asking the Sheri to design the poster again.

Seattle Pride Parade – Save the Date!! – June 28th -- Lisa

HEY! Do you want to have the banner for your organization on the Safe Schools Bus in the parade? Then let us know! Also, we're looking for volunteers for the parade-people to hand out goodies and people to ride the bus. It's fun so [let us know](#) if you're interested!

(8) FISCAL UPDATE – Beth, Kathy

Make a tax deductible donation right now. You know you LOVE the Coalition:

<https://anauel.youth-guard.org/safeschools/donate.asp>

Beth would like to personally THANK Kathy for the help she's providing on the budget and fiscal team

(9) WEB SITE REPORT – Gabi

a) Changes to the Hero & Role Model cards (removing Boy George, Terry Tafoya; adding Sheryl Swoopes; editing a few bios). Go to <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/herorolemodelcards.pdf>
HELP NEEDED - HEROES: If you have heroes or role models to recommend, especially people familiar to students, [send](#) us short blurbs about them!! They can be GLBTQAI identified or possibly they weren't out if they were historical figures, but who might if they were alive today.

b) HEY AGAIN - MUSIC: Give Safe Schools Coalition some ideas for songs to put on the website - especially those of you under 35 ☺ and/or with interest in different musical genres. They could be songs about anything from hate to family to honesty. [Send](#) us the name of the artist and the title of the song; we'll take it from there trying to seek permission, unless you have access and can request it for us.

c) Welcome to new web site volunteers Noah Grant, who will be looking at international resources for LGBTQ youth, and school librarian Lisa Francine, who will be updating the bibliography sections of the web site.

d) Some highlights from the January web site report:

- **Page Views:** Total Page Views 42,038; Average Page Views per Day 1,356
- **Visitors:** Total Visitors 24,323; Average Visitors per Day 784; Total Unique IPs 11,441
- **Most Popular web pages:**
 - 1 <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/> 3,979
 - 2 <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/safe.html> 1,652
 - 3 <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/contact/index.asp> 1,612
 - 4 http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-bullying_harassment_schoolbasedviolence.html 1,029
 - 5 <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-lessonplans.html> 738

(10) LISTSERVE REPORT – Beth

a) Welcome to recent subscribers from:

- *Seattle, WA (2)*
- *Lake Elsinore, CA*
- *Cincinnati, OH*
- *Ottawa, ON, Canada*
- *Boulder, CO*
- *Renton, WA*
- *Olympia, WA*

b) Robyn will be stepping down in a month or so from sending news digests. Thank you, Robyn, for your volunteer service to the Coalition! Tanya McNeill will be taking over for Robyn. If you have news articles to suggest she send to the list, she'll be reachable at news2@safeschoolscoalition.org WELCOME TANYA!

c) **HEY:** Remember to send announcements for **EVENTS** to [Lauren](#), you can also send **ACTION ALERTS** to [Gabi](#)

d) **There are two ways to subscribe.** Signing up for "IMPORTANT NEWS" gets you an average of 1-2 messages a week, mostly action items, meeting minutes and major announcements. Signing up for "NEWS" gets you those messages plus news, opinion, events and job digests totaling an average of 2 messages a day. Not subscribed? Need to change the address we send to or to switch lists? Go to: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/listsab.asp>

(12) HRC's MEMBERSHIP IN SSC – Frank

Ellen Kahn & Frank have been in communication about setting up a call with Joe Solmonese (HRC E.D.). SSC asks that they commit to supporting only an inclusive ENDA. PFLAG has stated that they will only support an inclusive ENDA & SSC has suggested that HRC look to them for guidance with this. THANKS FRANK for all your hard work on this issue!

(13) CHANGE IN SSC LEADERSHIP – Transition Team

The leadership team meeting had to be rescheduled due to the weather and is now set for 3/11

(14) PSKS' new Q Hour -- Hanna

PSKS is hosting a Q Hour for GLBTQA youth/young adults (no age restriction) on February 23rd from 5-6pm, at PSKS (1814 Summit Ave). It will be an open, confidential group with discussions guided by the youth. A. Martin from Seattle Counseling Service and Hanna will be co-facilitating. Food and bus tokens will also be provided. While PSKS is a homeless youth advocacy center, and that is the group that we primarily serve, the group is open to all interested in discussing those issues.

(15) RESEARCH – Gabi for Christina

Christina Barreda, a student at Evergreen State College, is updating/editing the Safe Schools Incident Report Form in preparation for the Coalition's replicating its 1990's study ***They Don't Even Know Me: Understanding Anti-Gay Harassment and Violence in Schools K-12***. **She would love your input! Please take the time to look this over ([attached](#)) and think about: if you were being interviewed what would you want on the form, if you were a researcher/counselor collecting information what would you need? Only around 3 weeks left so please support the work she's doing and look this over. You can reach her @ ChristinaBarreda@safeschoolscoalition.org**

(16) YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – Hanna, Kyle, Brandon

Hanna and Brandon have been chosen to represent Safe Schools Coalition and the Northwest as youth and Kyle as an adult at GLSEN's National Safe Schools Advocacy Summit. Out of 36 youth chosen nationwide, 2 plus Kyle are from the Seattle area!

(17) HRC's WELCOMING SCHOOLS CURRICULUM -- Beth

Matt Munson may be able to represent SSC on a conference call with HRC focused on implementing the Welcoming Schools Guide into grade schools.

(18) MORE RESEARCH -- Hanna

Hannah is looking at creating a survey to assess what's going on with Seattle area GSAs (possibly outside of Seattle also) -- what's working and what's not. More on this as her work progresses.

UPCOMING MEETINGS ... contact the chair if you have agenda items to suggest or if you need instructions about attending (in person) or calling in (by conference call).

All are welcome- you do NOT need to be a Coalition member to attend.

March 17th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Marsha chairs and Matt records Marsha: 206-601-8942; [Marsha Botzer](#)

April 21st, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Frieda chairs and Daniel records Frieda: 253-765-7062; [Frieda Takamura](#)

May 19th, 3-5 pm, Pacific Time. Beth chairs and Heather records Beth: 206-296-4970; [Beth Reis](#)