

Youth Summit 2019

Topic: Gender and Sexuality

Issues that were brought up for this topic?

[Adult]

- Non-binary
- Gender identity
- Transgender non-binary
- Gender expression
- Who you are/how identify
- Present yourself:
 - feminine/masculine/not the same
 - dress a certain way doesn't mean identify
- transgender/confused and want to be informed
- Other gender born with other than assigned at birth
- Dysphoria
- Gender spectrum / fall in spectrum
 - how express themselves not the same
- Need more education on how to be nice to people and how to treat people.
- Back to basics – start in elementary school – how to be respectful to others.
- Need gender neutral bathrooms
- ELO – extended learning opportunities/clubs
- Need more clubs with safe spaces
- GSA Network – great resource
- Glycen – another good resource
- How to discuss with health care providers .
- Fights
- Weight/looks sexuality
- Interests
- Sexual harassment
- Gender Identity
- Social media
- Grief
- Politics
- Rumors/gossip
- Standing up for self

Resources the students mention for getting help, both informal and formal around this topic.

(Student scribes)

- GSA network
- Glisson
- Websites with definitions and answers to questions.
- Anti-discrimination policies enforced by administration.

(Adult scribes)

- Prom Out Loud – resource
- Stay safe
- Understanding:
 - Compare to natural illness
 - Needs to go back to heterosexual – medication
 - Animals are not heterosexual
- Sex:
 - A sexual preference
 - Polyamory
 - Teach different sexualities in classes than gay/include to make it so it's not abnormal.
 - I wasn't heard in health class:
 - Make more inclusive.
 - Shouldn't sit through a class and not see yourself.
 - Teach intersex not just male/female chromosomes
 - Born with nothing, female/not female
 - Parents
 - SRO
 - YLTA – Youth Leadership through adventure
 - Counselors
 - Teachers
 - Coaches
 - Not much
 - GSA – gender sexual alliance
 - DSA – diversity student alliance
 - Clubs Community
 - DBN – Dude be nice

Ways they mention how they cope with this issue.

(Adult Scribes)

- How to blend in.
- We are wide open (GSA).
- Not worry about pronouns.
- Who to date, not, here are my pronouns.
- What I'm thinking:
 - Introduce chosen name/sometimes given, sometimes not.
- Closeted schools > hard everyday
- Suggested: state level (closet community)
- Resources / strong and open
- Divided: safe spaces/assume transgender other; stigma of being outside the norm
- Values passed down generations:
 - People need to be more open accepting judgments based on appearance
- Writing and having respect both ways seeing how others have coped/dealt with this could help 'you' cope /deal too.
- Knowing that people are supportive of you is important.
- Making personal connections.
- How to deal with transgender bathrooms?
- How to cope with rejection when you tell someone how you feel? Acceptance and understanding. Prepare for scenarios. Find someone to help you
- When responding to someone – do not give them a negative response – be supportive of their feelings and let them compassionately with respect.

- Peer support
- Learn self-care

(Student Scribes)

- By talking about
- GSA clubs at school

Write down what they wish it was like.

(Adult Scribes)

- Stereotype:
 - Phobic around certain groups.
 - Large population for 'those' kind of people.
 - Provide support groups.
 - Schools that are religion based don't know how people will react.
 - Acknowledge but do not want to deal with this topic.
- Closeted
- Cultural differences
- More education; back to basics
- Wish people would be more open minded.
- Be more accepting of people who are different.
- Schools need to learn about how to teach the topic more correctly.
- Wish that coming out didn't have a negative stigma associated with it
- Learn conflict resolution skills.
- Consistent funding to support our needs.
- Diligent administration
- More awareness, resources and communication – parents/teachers, teachers/students.
- Better parenting

(Student Scribes)

- Want more education at a younger age,
- Address root of problem which is the close-mindedness,
- Talk about it more,
- If you see something say something,
- Speak up when someone says something mean.
- Need more respect from teachers/authority figures.
- Incorporate education about gender from the beginning.
- Understand that gender is a spectrum.

Other feedback

(Adult scribes)

- Getting on committees
- You can help change culture.
- Coming out is hard.
- What happens when not given the chance to come out on your own.
- Difficult to have people call me out, difference, put in boxes.
- Pansexual means you like whoever you want– attracted to people, not genders.

- Fearful to come out.
- Opportunities to discuss in or out of school – GSA helps (positive.) Impact of introducing the understanding /acceptance of gender issues early on will help.
- Gender dysphoria is discomfort with your body.
- This isn't a choice; understanding that is important.
- Administration's support of acceptance – no tolerance for bullying or teasing.
- Understanding the definitions to the labels and where "you fit in."

(Student Scribes)

- Have article in newspaper about using the term "that's gay."
- People need to show respect more to others who are different than them.
- Start the discussions about gender younger to be inclusive and more respectful.
- We need to talk more about it.
- In order to start accepting people, there needs to be more open-mindedness.
- Stereotypes of masculinity and femininity lead and contribute to closed minds.
- People aren't fully understanding of what it's.
- Progress is being made but there's still a lot more that needs to be done.
- Having all-gender bathrooms have helped school inclusion.
- Have more safe spaces for people to talk about gender and sexuality.
- Technology has allowed for younger generations to understand more that being different isn't a choice.
- Supporting others is very important in making others feel more accepted.
- It was easier to have others that are experienced to help get questions answered.
- Having administration that is understanding helps with discrimination.
- Have to make the personal connections.
- Schools don't talk about about what "queer" means.
- Teachers aren't necessarily seeing all the discrimination in the hall.
- Be respectful even if you aren't the same as them.
- Sexuality isn't as different as people think:
 - Someone who is heterosexual and homosexual go through the same things, i.e. rejection
- Pronouns are a comfort thing.
- People often try to distance themselves from LBGQ.
- Hard to change the wiring is set/stigma.
- Not a lot of diversity
- "Teach our teachers."
- Inclusive community
- Masculinity vs Femininity – no pressure
- Non-binary prom