

Post-Conference Report

Halton District School Board - Secondary Day

February 14, 2018

Introduction

The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity is proud to have partnered again with the Halton District School Board to create two days of LGBTQ2S+ inclusion for both elementary and secondary students.

The students of the HDSB were excited to once again come together to celebrate the diversity and inclusion in their schools, as well as gain more hard skills in order to continue improving. The students and the board agreed to create two separate days, one for elementary students and another for secondary students. They wanted to be able to target specific issues that each group faced and be able to connect with other youth of their age.

Two-hundred secondary students joined together on February 13, 2018 at Milton District High School to “Queer Valentine’s Day,” promote LGBTQ2S+ inclusion, and challenge heteronormativity in Canadian culture. Workshops were organized in the style of open and organic conversations, where students could come and go as they pleased in order to engage in conversations with facilitators and their peers.

Schedule

9:00 - 9:50am - Arrival/Registration

9:50 - 10:50am - Opening Keynote

11:00 - 11:40am - Workshops Session 1

11:40 - 12:30pm - Lunch

12:30 - 1:15pm - Workshop Session 2

1:20 - 3:00pm - Closing Remarks

Presenters

Keynote : Teddy Syrette; teddysyrette.wordpress.com

Teddy Syrette spoke to the students about their experiences as a two-spirit person growing up in Sault Ste. Marie and facing racism, misogyny, homophobia, and the patriarchy.

Trans Health and Inclusion : Jude Ashburn; positivespacenetwork.ca

Jude, the LGBTQ+ Coordinator at PSN, spoke about the Trans Inclusivity and Health. Students in this workshop walked away with better awareness of Trans identities and obstacles Tran people may face in the medical care system.

LGBTea: Thea Wallace

Students in this workshops were treated to tea and conversations about queer-friendly books. Facilitators and students talked about books that they have seen or wish to have included in their schools libraries.

MakerSpace : Gabe Thirwall

Gabe worked with participants to create LGBT art and helped other express themselves through arts and crafts. Students created decorations for the Valentine's Day dances in their schools.

Changerooms: Making Them Inclusive : Stephanie Sapienza; ccgsd-ccdgs.org

Students spoke with Stephanie about how to create more inclusive change rooms, specifically how to include Trans athletes in change rooms. They also spoke in depth about creating more gender-neutral bathrooms in their schools.

LGBT Storytelling : Beth Murch; bethmurch.wordpress.com

Beth helped students find their voice and how to use storytelling to express their identities. Beth worked with the participants to create stories and share her own.

Anti-Oppression : Ally Patel; positivespacenetwork.ca

Ally spoke about her personal experiences as a queer person of colour and how to fight oppression and racism. Students were given skills and brought through scenarios in which they face oppression and how best to combat it.



Quotes of the Day

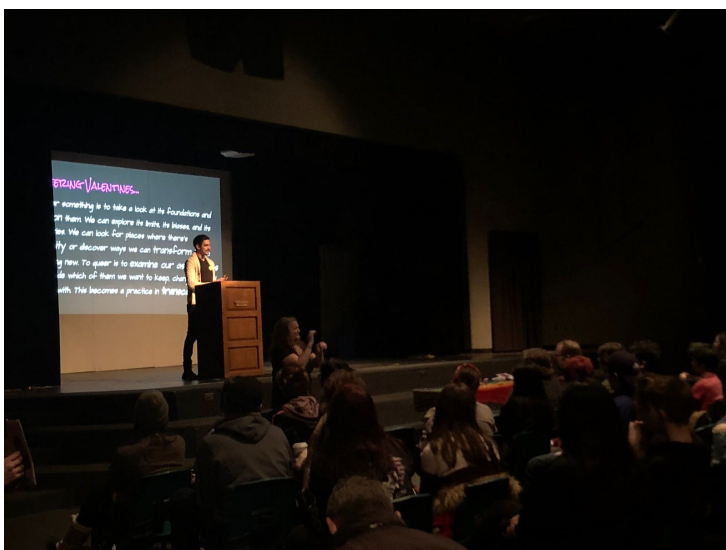


"This was such a good day!"

"It's great to see what other student's are doing."

"Teddy was amazing!"

"I'm glad that our school is so open. "



"I just want everyone to feel safe"

"Gay OK!"