

## **Article 1: Purpose, Objectives, Mission and Vision**

### Purpose

We are parents, guardians or caregivers from diverse racial, cultural and religious backgrounds who identify as LGBTQ+, and/or the parents, guardians or caregivers of Saint Paul Public Schools' LGBTQ+ students. We have a common purpose to ensure the success of our students, and authentically affirm and celebrate gender and sexual diversity. Our focus is on relationship building, family engagement, and ensuring that all students receive a premier education. We serve as a forum for families to express concerns and advocate on the behalf of their children.

### Objectives

We empower LGBTQ+ families from all racial, cultural and religious backgrounds to be engaged in the education of their children. We build a strong community and improve the learning and social environment for LGBTQ+ students. We make recommendations to the Superintendent and Board to improve the success of our students, families, schools and the SPPS district. We increase the accessibility of opportunities for parent, guardian and caregiver engagement, advocacy and leadership.

### Mission

The GSDPAC mission is to build a strong partnership between families with gender and sexual diversity and Saint Paul Public Schools. We serve as a forum for providing input, making recommendations, and advocating for key policy issues pertinent to LGBTQ+ student achievement academically and socially.

### Vision

The GSDPAC vision is for all students to achieve academically, have safe and welcoming learning environments, learn about gender and sexual diversity, and build the skills to succeed in life. We strive to improve LGBTQ+ student support services, and provide parents, guardians and caregivers confidence in their ability to advocate for their children.

## **SPPS Gender and Sexual Diversity Parents Advisory Council (GSDPAC) Bylaws**

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### **Article 2: Level of Authority**

GSDPAC:

1. Operates as an advisory council and has no authority over decisions and recommendations made by the administration to the Superintendent or the Board.
2. May develop positions on district policy issues for which the Board will have the final legal, policy-making authority.
3. Does not replace any parent's, guardian's or caregiver's right to directly address the Board, Superintendent, Administrators or Principals.

### **Article 3: Voting on an Issue**

1. GSDPAC is not required to vote on every issue it examines.
2. If GSDPAC decides to vote on an issue, each member present will have one vote.
3. Decisions will be passed by a simple majority vote.

### **Article 4: Scope of Responsibility of GSDPAC Members**

1. Advise the administration and Board on policies and practices representing the views of LGBTQ+ students, parents, schools and community.
2. Respect the views of all members.
3. Attend and participate in GSDPAC meetings.
4. Select representatives as spokespeople to: lead a delegation to speak before the Board; work with the Superintendent and administration to create the agenda and schedule for meetings; request materials and guest speakers that GSDPAC may need to meet its advisory functions.
5. Participate in, but not necessarily be responsible for, organizing Student, Parent and/or Community meetings.
6. Maintain the confidentiality of all materials and content of discussions until approval.
7. Keep abreast of current issues related to LGBTQ+ students and families by talking with a variety of constituents, attending Parent groups and/or other site-specific meetings, attending regularly scheduled Board meetings, and reading prepared documents.

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### **Article 5: Scope of Responsibility of Superintendent and District Administration**

1. Works with the GSDPAC to create agendas and schedule GSDPAC meetings.
2. Recommend and provide materials that GSDPAC may need to meet its advisory function.
3. Recommend and coordinate attendance for guest speakers/presenters for LGBTQ+ topics, education, issues and policies.
4. Attend and facilitate GSDPAC meetings with SPPS support staff and GSDPAC representatives.
5. Enhance opportunities for leadership development of GSDPAC members.
6. Provide childcare, food and transportation services as needed.

### **Article 6: GSDPAC Membership and Meetings**

1. A parent, guardian or caregiver of a child in a SPPS school, or an ally of the LGBTQ+ youth community, may join the GSDPAC at any time. An ally is defined as an individual who affirms, authentically supports and celebrates gender and sexual diversity.
2. >50% of the membership must be a parent, guardian or caregiver of a child in a SPPS school.
3. Members that do not support the purpose, objectives, mission and values of the GSDPAC may be removed from the group by majority vote of each member present.
4. GSDPAC will recommend two members as designees to represent GSDPAC with the District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC). Designees will be approved by a simple majority vote by seated members.
5. GSDPAC members agree to share their emails and/or phone numbers with other GSDPAC members on a printed roster, via email, Google Drive, or through the SPPS GSD Parent Advisory Council Facebook group. The Facebook group is not public and membership is by invitation only to maintain the anonymity of students and GSDPAC members.
6. GSDPAC meetings will be held monthly from October through May.

### **Article 7: Amendments**

1. Bylaws will be reviewed every year.
2. Amendments to the GSDPAC Bylaws may be proposed by any GSDPAC member.
3. Notice of the proposed amendment(s) will be available to all GSDPAC members at least 7 days prior to a vote.
4. A 2/3 majority of all members present is required to adopt an amendment to the GSDPAC Bylaws.