

From: [REDACTED]@u4sd.org
Subject: Re: Advice about meetings
Date: March 21, 2023 at 12:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]@wcusd5.net
Cc: Illinois GSA Advisors ilgsaadvisors@googlegroups.com



What a complex situation, but you are doing the right thing.

My thoughts:

IF you want to keep it open -- Start the meeting with very clearly established and posted norms. Have a plan for how to dismiss ANY student who does not follow this protocol and state that upfront. ("Anyone who doesn't follow these norms will be sent to the office to call home, must leave, and will not be invited back). Keep the vibe light and normal. Don't give energy (negative, especially) to people who show-up. Follow a meeting protocol and have a solid plan. My club's norms are:

1. What happens in GSA stays in GSA OR Respect each other's privacy.
2. No photos, videos, recording, or cell phones.
3. Respect the talking piece.
4. Be kind to one another and yourself.

Maybe a really great thing to discuss at this meeting is how to productively stand up for oneself. My middle schoolers love [THIS VIDEO](#) about standing up, calling people in, and calling people out. This might fuel a fire you don't want. That's fair.

The other option is to do a fun, lighthearted, well planned activity. We do queer history trivia games, write cards to supportive teachers, make posters for the club, do book talks about queer books, etc. Something that involves little open-ended discussion (for now) and encourages the "key-players" to play nice with students they are against. What a wonderful opportunity for inter-identity relationship building!

IF you want to keep the meeting closed, you should make that clear. I would say, don't be sneaky. Just say to non-normal attenders, "We are continuing a project/working on an initiative/Planning for something with our current members only today. So sorry. If you are interested in other meetings, I'd be glad to give you a calendar of open meetings!"

Plan for a private time to follow up with your normal membership that isn't a normal meeting. Maybe via note, phone call, e-mail, etc. or during lunch or before school. Whether the meeting goes well or poorly, those kids will want to vent about their needs to you. They will want to talk about where their minds were and what comes next.

On Tue, Mar 21, 2023 at 11:16 AM [REDACTED]@wcusd5.net> wrote:

Hello friends.

We are having an interesting situation down here in southern Illinois. [This article explains it all.](#)

Currently, our administration has handled the situation very well. I am focusing on keeping my students safe and informed. We are trying to make sure we don't add any energy to the situation and we are confident in how it is being handled. That said, I have a meeting with the club tomorrow. Usually, our meetings are open. Unfortunately, some of the main players who are in favor of keeping transgender students out of the bathrooms are students who have been coming to meetings under the guise of support for our queer kids.

I'm meeting with our administration today, but I was hoping for some advice about how to handle the meeting tomorrow. Do any of you have experience with monitoring who can and who cannot attend meetings?

Thank you in advance; I'm very grateful for all of you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] (she/her)

[REDACTED] Teacher

Diversity Club (GSA) Sponsor

Waterloo High School

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