

**Subject:** Request for LGBTQIA+ Affinity Space

**From:** Lily RaymanRead <lily.raymanread@watertown.k12.ma.us>

**Date:** 1/31/2024, 7:41 AM

**To:** [REDACTED] Deanne Galdston

<deanne.galdston@watertown.k12.ma.us>, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Hello Admin Team,

First of all, I wanted to say a deep and heartfelt thank you to our WMS admin team for holding the forum, and remaining steadfast, empathetic, and kind the entire forum, even in moments of incredible challenge. Last night was incredibly painful and hard for many members of our community for a diverse set of reasons, and I hear and acknowledge that- and share the sentiment for my own reasons.

I have received an overwhelming number of messages from multiple perspectives, and want to do my best to listen and support as best I can. I did receive a clear ask (and already checked with Dede on this) for the \*immediate\* creation of an affinity space for LGBTQIA+ families/community members to be safe in community with each other following what happened last night. I think it would be helpful to provide that space for both students, staff and families as the kids are really not ok right now- both those on the list, and those who hold empathy for the creator (and those who have friends across all spectrums).

As I had to bring my [REDACTED] who was incredibly emotional home, I did not have the opportunity to debrief with the group, but I would like to extend my gratitude and to extend the offer to help if there is any way I can.

Thank you all,  
Lily

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