**Gay Straight Members’ Alliance Terms of Reference**

**Established September 19, 2011**

**Updated December 10, 2020**

**Article 1: Name and Mission Statement**

**Section 1: Name**

The name of the organization shall be the “Gay Straight Members’ Alliance”, referred to herein as the GSMA.

**Section II: Mission Statement**

1. To provide a supportive, safe environment for District 27 OSSTF members who identify as lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirited, (LGBTQ2S+) and straight to meet.
2. To provide a voice to the District regarding sexual diversity and gender identities.
3. To provide a vehicle of social and political action in regards to sexual diversity and gender identities.
4. To act as an ally to other organizations dealing with issues pertinent to the LGBTQ2S+ communities.
5. To respect the confidentiality of all members.

**Article II: Membership and Meetings**

**Section 1: Membership**

The GSMA is open to all members of District 27 OSSTF.

**Section II: Meetings**

Meetings shall be free and open to all members of District 27 OSSTF. The GSMA will meet on a regularly scheduled interval throughout the school year. The GSMA will elect a chair each school year.

**Article III: Voting**

**Section 1: Eligibility**

All District 27 GSMA members who are present at a meeting are eligible to vote.

**Section II: Procedures**

All votes will be conducted based on the OSSTF policies and procedures for our District.

Basic LGBTQ2S+ Acronym Definitions 

Lesbian – a woman who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to other women.

Gay – a man who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to or involved with other men. Gay is also sometimes used as an umbrella term to refer to the lesbian, gay, bisexual + community.

Bisexual – a person who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to “both”/all genders. “Both’ appears in quotation marks to reference the root of bi as meaning two, but also to acknowledge that there are more than two genders.

Transgender – a person whose gender identity is different from the gender and sex they were assigned at birth. For example, a transgender woman is typically a person who was assigned male at birth, but now lives and identifies as a woman. Transgender can also be used as an umbrella term to refer to multiple identities including but not limited to: genderqueer, agender, or non-binary.

Queer – as an identity refers to a person who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to people of all gender identities. Queer can also be used as an umbrella term to refer to the LGBTQ2S+ community. Historically the word queer has been an insult, however some people have reclaimed the word, while some are still opposed or uncomfortable with using it.

2-Spirit /Two Spirit – an Indigenous person who identifies as part of the LGBTQ2S+ community. Within many traditions 2-Spirit people were often healers, visionaries, and medicine people within Indigenous communities. Due to colonization 2-spirit people and teachings have been lost or hidden, and many 2-spirit people experience homophobia and transphobia in their own communities.

+ = the plus sign is intended to represent and acknowledge other identities not explicitly listed in the acronym

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