

Student proposes initiative regarding trans safety, works alongside student council

By **Winnie Wilson**
staff writer

The Oxford High School Student Council has passed four Transgender Rights bills in hope to implement them in the school. Sophomore Eli Nordstrom consulted trans students and other peers to curate an in-depth course of action for the Student Council to follow.

“I have a lot of friends that are transgender, and as I’ve gotten to know them I have also gotten to know their struggles,” Nordstrom said. “I see a group of people who are hurting, and you have to help the people who are the most oppressed.”

The proposal was brought to attention by a student-led group called Catalyst Oxford, and founder Nordstrom narrowed down the main topics that needed to be addressed regarding transgender student safety.

“Catalyst is run all democratically and horizontally,” Nordstrom said. “We are an organization that advocates on behalf of the student body, and we came up with a number of different plans, but our main focus right now is to pass things through the student council.”

The first bill encompasses issues focusing on the unfair treatment that the transgender community faces regarding lack of consequences for the students who harass them because of their gender identity, according to Nordstrom.

“First, we will be enforcing harassment and bullying rules for transgender people. Also, the two administration hall bathrooms should be made

gender-neutral to provide bathrooms for the transgender community. Lastly, we will be providing mental health for the youth,” Nordstrom said. “We are not going to sit by and let this happen to our friends, these solutions are very common sense and inarguable.”

The meeting in which the bills were presented were run by Student Body President Caroline McCready, and the next course of action was put upon her to move forward with the proposal.

“We are going to break into committees, one being the gender neutral bathroom situation, one being the mental health situation, and the other being in general how we will go about this,” McCready said. “We are going to make sure the entire student council is involved and everyone gets a say, and then we will get to go to the administration.”

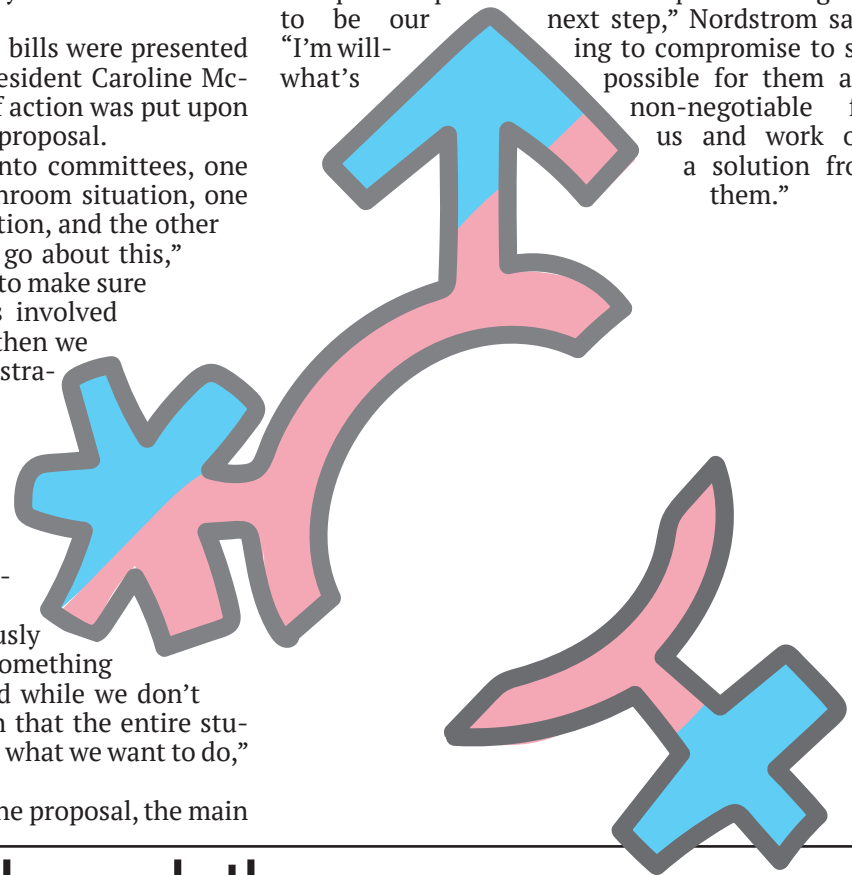
Senior Council Member Eva Reynolds spoke in favor of the proposal at the meeting. There were no speakers against any of the bills discussed, however, a few amendments did have to be made.

“It was passed unanimously and everyone felt that it was something we should be working on, and while we don’t have fine details it has shown that the entire student council supports this and what we want to do,” Reynolds said.

Following the passing of the proposal, the main

concern of many is how the Student Council will move forward with this initiative.

“Going to the administration in hope that they are in agreement with us and are willing to make this plan as professional as possible is going to be our next step,” Nordstrom said. “I’m willing to compromise to see what’s possible for them and non-negotiable for us and work out a solution from them.”



LGBTQ+ progress through the years

- 1950** The Mattachine Society is founded by Harry Hay and is one of the very first gay rights groups in the United States.
- 1961** Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalize homosexuality.
- 1969** The Stonewall Riots: Members of the LGBTQ+ community fought police officers raiding the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan. This event kickstarted the LGBTQ+ movement in America and globally.
- 1972** Around 2,000 people participate in the world’s first pride march, located in London.
- 1978** The rainbow flag is created by Gilbert Baker, with red standing for life, orange for healing, yellow for the sun, green for nature, blue for harmony and violet for spirit.
- 1982** Wisconsin becomes the first state to outlaw discrimination against others based on their sexual orientation.
- 1992** The World Health Organization declassifies same sex attraction as a mental illness.
- 1996** Hawaii becomes the first state to allow lesbian and gay couples the same privileges as heterosexual couples.
- 2015** Obergefell v. Hodges U.S. Supreme Court case legalizes gay marriage in the United States.