

# Petition calls for more unisex facilities

Students meet with administration to request changes

By Bobby Gorelick

Freshman Robin Ruan, a nonbinary student, created a petition to call for the implementation of more unisex restrooms placed in more convenient locations across campus.

Ruan began the petition with other transgender, gender nonconforming, LGBTQ and allied students and staff on Sept. 23.

It has received 194 signatures in support.

Gender nonconforming students may feel uncomfortable using gendered bath-

rooms as it is “invalidating to who we are and implies that the school doesn’t acknowledge our existence,” the petition states.

Currently, there are two unisex restrooms, one located in the I-HUB and the other in the GSS. However, their inaccessibility has caused issues, Ruan said.

Ruan said they began using the unisex restroom in the I-HUB, but it was crowded, had only one stall and they had to walk across campus to use it. As a result, they said they were often late to class or were forced to make the

decision to use a gendered restroom, turning the matter into an equity issue.

In order to use the GSS restroom, the petition states students must notify someone at the front office to unlock the restroom, which makes accessibility difficult, especially for closeted students.

“I didn’t even know [the unisex bathroom] existed until someone told me, which sucks,” Ruan said. “I started to realize not many people knew they existed.”



Photo by Bobby Gorelick  
**ADVOCATES CREATE PETITION:** Students led by Robin Ruan (right) push for more unisex restrooms.

See UNISEX FACILITIES, Page 3

# Unisex facilities

Continued from page 1

Recently, four lockers were added to the I-HUB restroom. Students are permitted to store items in them as well as change in the restroom. However, Ruan said it is still inconvenient to use these in place of the gendered facilities.

“I usually use the boy’s one because it’s easier,” Ruan said. “I used to go to the unisex one a lot, but you have to walk back and forth [to the I-HUB] and I would keep getting to class late.”

Superintendent Polly Bove said in a Zoom interview the district began ensuring every campus had at least one unisex restroom a number of years ago.

“Now we have a standard that in every new building we create, we add a unisex bathroom,” Bove said. “There’s two on every campus, and if we find that there’s more need on a particular campus, administration [can transition] single use bathrooms into unisex ones.”

Principal Greg Giglio said while the I-HUB was being built, a law was about to be passed that would require public schools to have gender neutral bathrooms. However, administration were shocked when the law was defeated. Even without the passage of the law, the I-HUB design continued to include a gender neutral bathroom.

Giglio said the restroom was turned into a staff bathroom due to damages and inappropriate use during hybrid learning, but administration decided to reopen it as a unisex student restroom this year.

“It’s probably not enough at this point, but we’re trying to figure out what the needs really are,” Giglio said. “In the long-range planning, there is some thought about looking at our locker rooms and seeing if we can create a gender neutral space.”

Giglio said he met with the group of students who were in-



Photo by Erin Loh

**NEW UNISEX BATHROOMS:** Giglio said the district will assess the need for more unisex bathrooms.

terested in expanding gender neutral. The administration are interested in helping out and they plan on having future meetings, he said.

“We’re trying to do it in a thoughtful way that’s not gonna hurt or out kids that aren’t out,” Giglio said. “We want to protect them and give them a safe space.”

Sophomore Hayden Kaplanov, a nonbinary student, said they got involved in the petition after seeing the advocacy efforts around campus.

“I saw the flyer and I was like, ‘Okay, somebody else also cares about this,’ Kaplanov said. “I thought it’d be cool to get involved.”

Kaplanov said they met with Giglio along with Ruan to discuss the petition and they are grateful the administration took the time to listen to their concerns.

“I’m glad we have the one at least,” Kaplanov said. “If something actually happens and we get more unisex restrooms, I would be super happy.”

Ruan said expanding unisex restrooms would strengthen inclusivity for gender nonconforming students.

“Implementing more unisex restrooms would be really nice for every transgender and nonbinary kid on campus,” Ruan said. “People would get used to it and be like ‘oh yeah there’s girl’s, boy’s and unisex.’”

“Implementing more unisex restrooms would be really nice for every transgender and nonbinary kid on campus.”  
- Robin Ruan (9)