

On 9/9/20, 10:37 PM, "thePATH forward" <pea4truthandhealing@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Principal Rawson and Morgan Sze,

Since September 2018, Phillips Exeter Alumni for Truth and Healing (PATH) has been asking the leadership of Exeter to engage with survivors of sexual abuse at Exeter, and the broader Exeter community, in a spirit of transparency and accountability for the handling of allegations of sexual misconduct. PATH's 2018 petition followed in the steps and spirit of the Exeter Unafraid petition regarding the same issues in September 2016. Most recently, members of PATH traveled to Exeter from around the country in February 2020 to meet with Bill Rawson and members of the Exeter administration and trustees. We discussed PATH's concerns regarding lack of accountability with faculty and administrators failing in trauma informed support of survivors who report abuse, or fail to report as per the spirit of the MOU with the Exeter Police Department, as well as the future of ongoing meetings between PATH and Exeter.

Despite these repeated, good faith efforts to engage Exeter on its handling of sexual misconduct, Exeter has ignored or rejected almost every PATH request, from conducting a truly independent investigation, to implementing a restorative approach in its mediations with abuse survivors, and to effective accountability in reporting. Exeter did not even follow up with PATH after the February meeting, even though PATH now understands Exeter was contending with at least two survivors who came forward in 2020.

We recognize the steps that Exeter has taken to comply with its mandatory reporting obligations and to make the campus environment safer for its students. But Exeter's failure to hold the adults in its employ accountable for their failures prioritizing the safety of the adolescents in its care have now resulted in yet another heartbreaking and reputation-damaging revelation of the sexual abuse of a young student by a member of the faculty. We also understand that there is another survivor with a similar story of abuse by faculty who has come forward.

It is time for Exeter to step up.

Following up on our previous requests, PATH wants to see the Exeter administration and trustees take the following steps to restore trust with its students, parents, and alumni:

1. Commission a truly independent and complete investigation, with a firm agreed upon with PATH, of sexual misconduct at Exeter in order to address it, attend to those harmed, hold accountable those at fault, and bring about necessary changes in culture;
2. Replace all Deans who have failed to make mandatory reports and properly support survivors;
3. Include at least two survivor representatives on the Board of Trustees; and

4. Stop the reliance on statutes of limitation, which have been eliminated by the State of New Hampshire on a going-forward basis, in all mediations with survivors and implement (where requested by a survivor) restorative principles in those mediations.

On behalf of survivors and the broader Exeter community, PATH implores the Exeter administration and trustees to address – finally – the grave shortcomings in the school’s response to sexual misconduct at Exeter. PATH maintains its stance that Exeter cannot claim to be a safe place for youth from all quarters, and a leader in the prep school world, while it continues to put the interests of the institution over the safety and wellbeing of its students and the alumni who continue to suffer today due to Exeter’s failure to address past sexual misconduct. Exeter can, and it must, do better.

Sincerely,

Phillips Exeter Alumni for Truth and Healing
Julia Gray '97
Ann Malabre '81 Larry Bouchie '79 Valerie Wagner '83