

December 11, 2017

Update on the release of Rockingham County Attorney's Phillips Exeter-related files

On Friday, [I shared with you a development](#) around a recently filed Right-To-Know request related to an alleged case of student misconduct. That release of approximately a thousand pages detailed both historical and more recent allegations of misconduct that we received and reported to the Exeter Police Department (EPD), dating back to the 1960s. I'd like to provide some additional information.

First, and importantly, no current students are named in the report, and no current student-on-student allegations are in the report. The allegations are all historical, stemming from our requests over the last few years for people to step forward and report on past misconduct.

However, three current faculty members were identified as subjects of allegations reported by PEA to the EPD. The details of these allegations were included in a [Dec. 9 Union Leader article](#), although the teachers' names were withheld.

As I said last week, Exeter reports all allegations to the Exeter Police Department. We do this without prejudging the specific facts. This means automatic reporting of allegations received from any source, including anonymous reports, second-hand accounts, and speculation. We report them all.

Our guiding principle is the safety of each individual in our community. After reporting allegations to the EPD, we undertake our own investigation, including those involving the three teachers currently employed. We take appropriate actions. Last week, we re-examined those allegations, the supporting materials, the review process and the outcomes. We believe the decisions made in each case were correct.

In addition to investigating each allegation, we also continually review our policies, our training and our employment actions, to ensure we are being as responsive as possible to safety concerns. We stay vigilant about emerging threats, as they can change over time. We also educate ourselves about new developments that affect student safety and well-being. We use Communitas to share some of those developments with you.

I also want to report that [we have requested in writing](#) – and the County Attorney has agreed to review – a detailed list of redactions before that office releases the files to any additional parties.

As these files are parsed by the media and others, you may have additional questions or concerns. I will keep you apprised of developments through Communitas and community letters, but you should always feel free to reach out to me or our Director of Student Well-Being, Christina Palmer. Parents can also contact their student's adviser or dorm head.

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