

Frank Todisco, Board Chair called the special meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office Board Room, Pawcatuck, CT. Members present were Heidi Simmons, Board Secretary, Alisa Morrison, Craig Esposito, Farouk Rajab, Jack Morehouse and Gordon Lord. Also present were Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, staff members and guest Attorney Christine Chinni.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Agenda

Lane Milde (emailed comment/copy attached) - *Dear Stonington Public Schools Board of Education, "Stonington Public Schools where we believe in all students. Through partnerships with family and community, we will provide an innovative and inspirational educational environment where students succeed with confidence and develop a love of life-long learning." Stonington public schools: you are failing miserably in this mission. For a moment, let's look beyond the fact that we now have the results of the "independent" investigation to determine whether the classification of information presented to school officials in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 as "reports," "interactions with people" and "concerns" was done in good faith, or to avoid having a record of a "complaint," effectively engaging in a cover-up and that many current and former Stonington taxpayers believe the investigation was done poorly and ineffectively. It is completely inappropriate for anyone working on behalf of the district to comment on the facts related to this investigation, but it is wildly inappropriate, dangerous, and destructive for anyone to threaten, harass or otherwise personally attack a private taxpaying citizen expressing concerns about how any situation was handled while representing and working on behalf of the school district. I am speaking of the comments made on behalf of the school district by Maureen Masson, specifically regarding threats and disparaging comments made to those trying to stand up for our children and what is right. Certainly, these types of threats and harassment are not intended to be a debate about facts or an example of someone "standing up for her personal experience and beliefs" as was claimed by former board member Candace Andersen in defense of the actions taken by Ms. Masson. Additionally, these comments, presumably fueled by Ms. Masson's claimed "first-hand experience," would have been based upon information she gathered from students confiding in her. This confidence and trust is a prerequisite for effective performance in her position, and as a direct result of this behavior, the faith any current or future student or parent may have had in her ability to maintain confidentiality has been completely diminished along with the likelihood of using Maureen Masson's services. Her behavior has discouraged anyone from coming forward with information and severely compromised her ability to complete her basic job duties. Furthermore, there are additional concerns over the public claims Ms. Masson has made targeting members of this community who are seeking the truth. Any claim made by Ms. Masson, a healthcare professional, on a public forum regarding the mental health of an individual, for example, a claim that someone is a pathogenic liar, is not only slander but also arguably a criminal violation of privacy under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. I therefore demand that the board of education immediately terminate Maureen Masson's employment with the Stonington School District. If any members of this board would like to continue to defend this egregious behavior, the community looks forward to seeing a fresh face in place of yours in the near future .Sincerely, Lane Milde*

Julia McFall (emailed comment/copy attached) - *To Whom It REALLY Should Concern, My name is Julia McFall, I was a student at SHS from '11-'14. I had contacted Christine Chinni about speaking up on this when it first became an issue but lost her contact and access to my previous email, so here I am now. I never personally experienced the unwarranted and unwanted touching or grabbing by Chokas but I remember my sophomore year wanting to take the photography class but ended up opting for pottery. I attribute this aversion to my classmates warning me about Chokas' behavior. I was told he had less than nonexistent boundaries around female students and remember going with my friends to the dark room to check on their projects. I said to my friend one day, "I just got a really bad vibe." and she said "That's because bad stuff happens in here." At the time I was confused by her comment but today fully understand. If I had been as interested in photography as I am now, then, would my name be on the list of names who are not believed? And for all those whose argument is "Why didn't they speak up sooner?' When nothing else gets dealt with and everything gets aggressively shoved under the rug then why report anything ever? I myself*

reported bullying many times and was told that nothing could be done about it because admins were not present. Do parents have to go into class with children for them to be believed? 30 girls, possibly more, since there are many who were not contacted to speak on this and Chokas' got to walk away, unphased and unpunished WITH his full salary and benefits? What kind of world is the BOE living in? I don't think any resident of Stonington can have any kind of faith in this administration until all those who had a hand in burying this are removed from their positions. Regards, Julia K. McFall

Tracy Swain (emailed comment/copy attached) - To the members of the BOE, I am not alone when I say what a joke of a report was done by this Attorney who was hired to do an independent investigation, regarding the Chokas matter, and of all staff members. Months ago, when there were signs that she was not capable of handling this job, she should have been FIRED, and replaced. How many more residents do you need to infuriate by not FIRING Riley, and the many more under him who were also negligent. What is wrong with all of you, that you're not HIRING ANOTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION ATTORNEY? This is a mystery to many residents. According to the botched job Attorney Chinni did do, the current BOE attorney that you are all listening to was involved day one with this issue as well. He also did not inform the BOE members of this issue so HE NEEDS TO BE FIRED AS WELL. Enough is enough, stand up for our Town, the Residents, and the Students, and show folks that when you do something wrong, there are consequences to your actions. If any of you are worried about what Riley's contract says, or any other employee's contract says, then it's about time to get all involved that covered this up out of our schools, all you need to do is Suspend them without pay, pending a CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. Covering up a crime is a Crime. Yes, there are many former students that have hired an Attorney, because of the actions that the former teacher made, and the inactions of so many teachers, staff, and administration. What actions you members of the BOE take will have a huge Impact on their lawsuit. FYI in 2016, every Superintendent in all CT schools, received a letter from the STATE, on how to handle sexual abuse in schools. Which I have attached for you all to see. What effect do you think this information is going to have in the case the former students are going to have against the BOE? Residents were under the impression you all hired the attorney to find out about any wrong doings in the school system, not cover it up. If the residents are right in their thinking, then the BOE needs to get its money back. Craig Esposito and Farouk Rahab, just what is your reasoning for protecting all these adults involved in this matter? Do you two think child predators, are ok? Do the two of you and the Democratic party, which Van Riley, and Attorney Chinni are both registered member of, feel this subject matter is not an issue? Where is Rise up Mystic on this issue, I guess real crimes, are not really an issue? If this subject matter is TOO hot for you two to handle, then may I suggest you two GET OFF THE BOE. Put in your resignations like Garvey, and Anderson did. There is so much more information that was "dug up" in this so-called investigation, it's beyond sad, that is not in this report. Now for this I must say, what is this about Friese, intimidating a minor student before all the BOE meetings, regarding this issue? Then calling her at home after she graduated telling her mom, that she needed to be careful of what she wrote in the letter she was submitting to the BOE, because now seeing she is 18, what she says can get her in trouble. ARE YOU SERIOUS, this man not only intimidated her like a mafia boss but threatened her as well, and he is still employed. This young lady should march down to the Stonington police department and file a complaint. This man not only broke his trust that we put into him with our children but also violated it. Attorney Chinni saw nothing wrong with this. Oh wait she never spoke to her, because she never did her job properly. It is also clear this attorney knows nothing about the State Laws, 2011-R-0397, 2005-R 0857, nor does she know anything about the August 10, 2017, Memo, by DCF to all schools. You all payed \$20,000 for joke of investigation. You were better off, paying THEDAY Reporter, he knew more before she was even hired to investigate, never mind now. Time has passed far too long now, it's time for you all to put these employees on suspension without pay, and get a criminal investigation moving forward. The residents want accountability, it's time that all those involved with covering this up, not just be fired, but to have to reimburse the town for all the costs that have already been incurred, and future legal costs, as well. This includes lawyers, teachers, and even the union. Why should we be paying for their mistakes? Sincerely, Tracy Swain, Resident of Pawcatuck CT Attached: August 2016, DCF letter to all Schools Superintendents.

To Discuss Final Report of Investigation

Chairman Frank Todisco spoke the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the report received last Wednesday from Attorney Chinni who was present at the meeting. Attorney Chinni explained the process in which she handled the investigation, the four main areas of focus per the Board's request and the timeline of events. Attorney Chinni entertained questions from each Board member regarding the final investigation report. Gordon Lord asked if there was other information not included in the report, and added he received questions why there was a lack of teachers included in the report. The attorney responded there was no information left out or teachers who approached her. Alisa Morrison asked the attorney why his teacher department mates or soccer coach was not interviewed or included in the report. Attorney Chinni explained her rationale for not interviewing his teacher mates. Jack Morehouse asked questions specific to incidents written in the report between 2013 and 2017, how the attorney reached out to individuals for interviewing and what access to other materials for the investigation did the attorney have. Heidi Simmons gave her view on the meaning of sexual harassment and how it related to the incidents explained in the report, and whether there was communication with community members that was not included in the report. Craig Esposito nor Farouk Rajab had questions for the attorney. Attorney Chinni gave answers to each of the Board's questions. Chairman Todisco asked if anyone had reached out to the attorney since the report was made public expressing concern with what was published and what they shared. He added Student #1 in the report had reached out to him with this concern and he will encourage that student to reach out to Attorney Chinni once again. Attorney Chinni responded if anything comes out of the conversation with the student again she will alter the report if needed.

Dr. Riley, Superintendent shared a packet of information with the Board members detailing events that have happened in the district, trainings and steps taken to address this issue. The Board reviewed the packet and asked questions. Alicia Sweet Dawe, SHS Associate Principal shared information on the new districtwide VOICE program. Alisa Morrison spoke about the history of the School Climate Committee and the need to continue with this committee. Chairman Todisco acknowledged there will be a presentation on the VOICE program at the October meeting.

Chairman Todisco and Board members discussed how the Board will move forward regarding the investigation.

The following motion was made by Heidi Simmons and seconded by Jack Morehouse:

Motion 1: To refer this to our Title IX Officer within the district for review as a transgression against Title IX sexual harassment in creating a hostile environment.

Craig Esposito asked if the Title IX person had an opinion on this and if she wanted to weigh in on this before we vote. The Board discussed the motion. Dr. Riley explained the usual procedure in which this is handled. He offered to meet with his staff and bring a report back to the Board. Chairman Todisco noted that it would be more appropriate to have him have a conversation with our attorney first, then take that guidance back to the Board.

Heidi Simmons withdrew the motion.

The Board discussed how to move forward now that the investigation is completed. Alisa Morrison added it is important we had the conclusion. We need to move forward and the best way is to take what was learned from the report and make it a top priority on our Board goals. It is important to know where we need to strengthen our policies. Gordon Lord noted we need to encourage our students and hoped that the students that came forward can move forward. We need to move forward for those students. Jack Morehouse spoke of his own experiences. He added he felt the situation was not managed correctly and felt sorry for all the students who witnessed the events. He also spoke on the positive things that the administration has done in the past few years. He would like to see a plan for students and administration to know how they should handle this in the future. Heidi Simmons noted there were a lot

of red flags and feels we need to be aware of what sexual harassment is. (See Attached Statement from Heidi Simmons) Farouk Rajab agreed we should move forward and learn from the past. He also voiced his personal experiences with Mr. Chokas behavior, noting that boys also have these experiences. We need to look as we move forward how we conduct ourselves. Craig Esposito agreed we need to put policies in place so that this does not happen again with teachers and address this at the Board retreat. Chairman Todisco voiced this will be a significant part of the Board retreat. He will work with the Title IX officer to see if there is an outside speaker to speak on this issue. He noted there is also another report that the Board is waiting on from the child advocate which will be a key element on policy. He feels we should keep this issue front and center and as a Board we need to be educated. There should be accountability on a regular basis as to what we are doing as a district, it does not just impact female students but all students. He added the staff needs to be educated on what is acceptable and what is not, so students can be put in a comfortable situation. He will work to get a date for the Board retreat and work with Allison Van Etten, Title IX Coordinator to bring in an outside professional to work with the Board. He will also reach out to the Department of Child Advocacy to find out when the report will be received.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Farouk Rajab:

Motion 2: To adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

All: Aye



Heidi Simmons, Board Secretary

Comment regrading investigation

Lane Milde <lanemilde@gmail.com>
To: publiccomments@stoningtonschools.org

Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 12:58 PM

September 9, 2020

Dear Stonington Public Schools Board of Education,

"Stonington Public Schools where we believe in all students. Through partnerships with family and community, we will provide an innovative and inspirational educational environment where students succeed with confidence and develop a love of life-long learning."

Stonington public schools: you are failing miserably in this mission.

For a moment, let's look beyond the fact that we now have the results of the "independent" investigation to determine whether the classification of information presented to school officials in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 as "reports," "interactions with people" and "concerns" was done in good faith, or to avoid having a record of a "complaint," effectively engaging in a cover-up and that many current and former Stonington taxpayers believe the investigation was done poorly and ineffectively.

It is completely inappropriate for anyone working on behalf of the district to comment on the facts related to this investigation, but it is wildly inappropriate, dangerous, and destructive for anyone to threaten, harass or otherwise personally attack a private taxpaying citizen expressing concerns about how any situation was handled while representing and working on behalf of the school district. I am speaking of the comments made on behalf of the school district by Maureen Masson, specifically regarding threats and disparaging comments made to those trying to stand up for our children and what is right. Certainly, these types of threats and harassment are not intended to be a debate about facts or an example of someone "standing up for her personal experience and beliefs" as was claimed by former board member Candace Andersen in defense of the actions taken by Ms. Masson.

Additionally, these comments, presumably fueled by Ms. Masson's claimed "first-hand experience," would have been based upon information she gathered from students confiding in her. This confidence and trust is a prerequisite for effective performance in her position, and as a direct result of this behavior, the faith any current or future student or parent may have had in her ability to maintain confidentiality has been completely diminished along with the likelihood of using Maureen Masson's services. Her behavior has discouraged anyone from coming forward with information and severely compromised her ability to complete her basic job duties.

Furthermore, there are additional concerns over the public claims Ms. Masson has made targeting members of this community who are seeking the truth. Any claim made by Ms. Masson, a healthcare professional, on a public forum regarding the mental health of an individual, for example, a claim that someone is a pathogenic liar, is not only slander but also arguably a criminal violation of privacy under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. I therefore demand that the board of education immediately terminate Maureen Masson's employment with the Stonington School District. If any members of this board would like to continue to defend this egregious behavior, the community looks forward to seeing a fresh face in place of yours in the near future.

Sincerely,

Lane Milde

Chokas Investigation

1 message

juliamcfall13@outlook.com <juliamcfall13@outlook.com>

Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 2:24 PM

To: "publiccomments@stoningtonschools.org" <publiccomments@stoningtonschools.org>

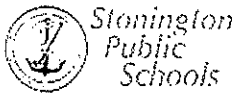
To Whom It **REALLY** Should Concern,

My name is Julia McFall, I was a student at SHS from '11-'14. I had contacted Christine Chinni about speaking up on this when it first became an issue but lost her contact and access to my previous email, so here I am now.

I never personally experienced the unwarranted and unwanted touching or grabbing by Chokas but I remember my Sophomore year wanting to take the photography class but ended up opting for pottery. I attribute this aversion to my classmates warning me about Chokas' behavior. I was told he had **less** than nonexistent boundaries around female students and remember going with my friends to the dark room to check on their projects. I said to my friend one day, "I just got a really bad vibe." and she said "That's because bad stuff happens in here." At the time I was confused by her comment but today fully understand. If I had been as interested in photography as I am now, then, would my name be on the list of names who are not believed? And for all those whose argument is "Why didn't they speak up sooner?" When nothing else gets dealt with and everything gets aggressively shoved under the rug then why report anything ever? I myself reported bullying many times and was told that nothing could be done about it because admins were not present. Do parents have to go into class with children for them to be believed? 30 girls, possibly more, since there are many who were not contacted to speak on this and Chokas' got to walk away, unphased and unpunished WITH his full salary and benefits? What kind of world is the BOE living in? I don't think any resident of Stonington can have any kind of faith in this administration until all those who had a hand in burying this are removed from their positions.

Regards,

Julia K. McFall



BOE Meeting date, 9-9-2020, letter

1 message

Jared Swain <jswain@comcast.net>

Wed, Sep 9, 2020 at 3:16 PM

To: ftodisco@stoningtonschools.org, Heidi.simmons@stoningtonschools.org, JMorehouse@stoningtonschools.org, AMorrison@stoningtonschools.org, gordon.lord@stoningtonschools.org, cesposito@stoningtonschools.org, Frajab@stoningtonschools.org

Cc: publiccomments@stoningtonschools.org

Attached you will find my letter in regards to the Meeting for September 9, 2020, to be read out loud during the public comment section of the Agenda.

Sincerely,

Tracy Swain Resident.

BOE meeting Sept 9, 2020.pdf
234K

Tracy Swain
Pawcatuck CT Resident.

September 9, 2020

To the members of the BOE,

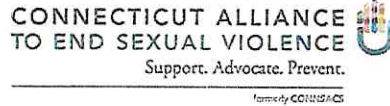
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Yes, there are many former students that have hired an Attorney, because of the actions that the former teacher made, and the inactions of so many teachers, staff, and administration. What actions you members of the BOE take will have a huge Impact on their lawsuit. FYI in 2016, every Superintendent in all CT schools, received a letter from the STATE, on how to handle sexual abuse in schools. Which I have attached for you all to see. What effect do you think this information is going to have in the case the former students are going to have against the BOE? Residents were under the impression you all hired the attorney to find out about any wrong doings in the school system, not cover it up. If the residents are right in their thinking, then the BOE needs to get its money back.

Craig Esposito and Farouk Rahab, just what is your reasoning for protecting all these adults involved in this matter? Do you two think child predators, are ok? Do the two of you and the Democratic party, which Van Riley, and Attorney Chinni are both registered member of, feel this subject matter is not an issue? Where is Rise up Mystic on this issue, I guess real crimes, are not really an issue? If this subject matter is TOO hot for you two to handle, then may I suggest you two GET OFF THE BOE. Put in your resignations like Garvey, and Anderson did.

There is so much more information that was "dug up" in this so-called investigation, it's beyond sad, that is not in this report. Now for this I must say, what is this about Friese, intimidating a minor student before all the BOE meetings, regarding this issue? Then calling her at home after she graduated telling her mom, that she needed to be careful of what she



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Joette Katz, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families *Joette Katz*
Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner, State Department of Education *Dianna R. Wentzell*
Laura Cordes, Executive Director, Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence *Laura Cordes*

DATE: August 10, 2016

SUBJECT: A Statewide K-12 Sexual Assault and Abuse Prevention & Awareness Program

Section 17a-101q of the Connecticut General Statutes directs the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) in collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence (the Alliance) — formerly Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. or CONNSACS — to develop a statewide sexual assault and sexual abuse awareness and prevention program to be implemented in all local and regional school districts in Connecticut by October 1, 2016.

Recognizing that the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and sexual assault must be a joint effort among schools, communities and families, DCF, CSDE and the Alliance have collaborated to develop guidelines in implementation of policies, programs, and services to address this vital need. The guidelines in *A Statewide K-12 Sexual Assault and Abuse Prevention & Awareness Program* offer recommendations for meeting the requirements while addressing the diverse and unique needs of school communities. The guidelines include: an overview of sexual violence; recommendations for delivering effective professional development; identifying developmental and age-appropriate awareness and prevention educational materials for students; policy guidance; and suggested resources.

Each district must implement a program that includes:

- **Instructional Modules for Teachers**, including but not limited to: (1) training regarding the prevention and identification of, and response to, child sexual abuse and assault; and (2) resources to further student, teacher and parental awareness regarding child sexual abuse and assault and the prevention of such abuse and assault.
- **Age-appropriate Educational Materials for Students** designed for children in Grades K-12, inclusive, regarding child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention, including but not limited to: (1) the skills to recognize child sexual abuse and assault; boundary violations and unwanted forms of touching and contact; ways offenders groom or desensitize victims; and (2) strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame and mobilize bystanders.

wrote in the letter she was submitting to the BOE, because now seeing she is 18, what she says can get her in trouble. ARE YOU SERIOUS, this man not only intimidated her like a mafia boss but threatened her as well, and he is still employed. This young lady should march down to the Stonington police department and file a complaint. This man not only broke his trust that we put into him with our children but also violated it. Attorney Chinni saw nothing wrong with this. Oh wait she never spoke to her, because she never did her job properly.

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Sincerely,
Tracy Swain, Resident of Pawcatuck CT

Attached:
August 2016, DCF letter to all Schools Superintendents.

Statement by Heidi Simmons

Stonington Board of Education, Special Meeting, September 9, 2020

My focus of this whole exercise was and is on the victims. The investigation has helped the victims to be heard. They have become validated survivors and hopefully, some can begin to heal.

But, we as a Board still have much work to do.

Let me begin with basic terminology.

I would like to replace the term "inappropriate behavior" which is used in the Chinni Report with the term "Sexual Harassment."

This is how Chokas' behavior should be correctly labeled?

This is important because:

1. Until we can name what we are dealing with, we cannot address it;
2. We can't fix a problem we cannot identify;
3. We have called this behavior inappropriate, too friendly, very touchy, creepy, weird and everything but WHAT IT IS; and
4. If we cannot name it, recognize it, and identify it, we cannot know it or fix it.

Respecting the need for that, let's first look at the definition of Sexual Harassment as defined in our bylaws at Section 5145.5(a):

"In a school setting, sexual harassment is conduct that is 1) conduct that is sexual in nature. 2) conduct that is unwelcome 3) conduct that denies or limits a student's ability to participate or benefit from a school's educational program."

Taking these three constructs of the definition, I would like to look at Chokas' behavior, as presented in the investigation and consider whether or not it qualifies as sexual harassment.

1. First, was his conduct "sexual in nature?"

Throughout Attorney Chinni's report students explained how Chokas touched, hit, patted, rubbed, massaged, rested his leg on and pinched a variety of a female's erogenous zones. These erogenous zones included:

1. Backs of leg;
2. Shoulders and neck;

3. Upper and lower back;
4. Thighs;
5. Buttocks;
6. Palms of hands;
7. Wrists; and
8. Facial cheeks.

It seems clear from the report that his Chokas' conduct was OF A SEXUAL NATURE. It is what the experts call "grooming" which, over time, can lead to actual sexual assault.

2. Second, was his conduct "unwelcome?"

- Attorney Chinni reported a girl had a male friend who told her he found Chokas' behavior toward her inappropriate and reported Chokas to guidance. The girl was appreciative that he did that for her.
- There was a similar incident where this time a female student came forward to speak on a fellow girl student's behalf while observing inappropriate attention that the alleged victim felt too uncomfortable to report.
- Then there was the incident on where a female clearly stated that she "wanted Chokas' behavior to just stop" [See page 11].
- Another girl, victim of Chokas' behavior, had a panic attack as she reflected on her interaction with him.
- When he taught computer and leaned over a girl's screen to help her in class, she would always flinch.
- Another student said that in class When he would come up behind another student, she would anticipate his touch and she would scrunch up her shoulders.
- There were Administrators who asked other staff to "keep their eyes on Chokas" because of his "unwelcome" behavior.
- His behavior actually caused rifts between friends.
- And he encouraged girls to confide in him; and would talk about their boyfriends, and about what clothes to wear.
- He even discussed with some girls the plans for the perfect get away for him and his wife.
- He was also known to target specific students and show favoritism.

It seems clear from the Chinni Report that his conduct was "unwelcome."

3. Third, did his behavior deny or limit "a student's ability to participate or benefit from a school's educational program."

- One girl reported an incident where he locked her with him in the photography dark room and touched her lower back. She then chose not to pursue photojournalism.
- Also, upon arrival to school as freshmen, girls were forewarned not to take his class.
- They were also told if he liked them, they would get an easy "A".

- And behavior in the already mentioned categories of **unwelcome conduct** and of **sexual nature** would certainly cause distractions to the learning environment.

On this point, I think that the report shows that Chokas' behavior denied or limited a student's ability to participate or benefit from the School's educational programs.

I conclude that Chokas' behavior could be considered "sexual harassment" in all three areas of the definition as used in the by-laws at Section 5145.5[a].

Why is this important?

If we can label Chokas' behavior as sexual harassment, and NOT just call it inappropriate, it seems we are beginning to address the real problem.

Perhaps because we were not able to name it or label it, that that is why children and teachers could not recognize it or speak it.

And perhaps that is why his behavior became accepted -- became normalized -- and was not recognized as being serious, and so seemed to be condoned by the administration.

I want the victims and survivors to know that Chokas' behavior exemplified sexual harassment. To deal with that kind of behavior, we need easily accessible and comprehensive processes and procedures for student support and communication.

I was inspired by the claim made by Attorney Chinni on page 47 of her report. She said that Chokas' actions would have been appropriate to treat as both sexual harassment and creation of a hostile learning environment. She said she thought that these actions should have been brought to the attention of a Title IX coordinator.

Based on this statement, I would now like to propose asking our Title IX coordinator to assess Chokas' behavior as a Title IX transgression of our own bylaws when it comes to sexual harassment and creating a hostile learning environment.

This is important because we need to know what sexual harassment looks like. We need to know that it can include what the experts call "grooming" which is the artful act of an abuser that can be the precursor to more insidious acts of abuse and assault.

We need to acknowledge that sexual harassment occurred and there is a dire need for a comprehensive process and procedure to be put in place to insure this does not happen again.

Although the investigation claimed that the school had taken many steps to address sexual harassment and title IX issues, Ms. Alexandra Kapell's letter as recent as this June 2020, does not support that. She stated that there are little to no resources readily available to students

