



# RUMSEY HALL SCHOOL

May 3, 2019

Dear Members of the Rumsey Community,

As you are likely aware, over the past few years there have been widely publicized reports of sexual misconduct at several independent and public schools. On May 16, 2017, we wrote to you that our Board of Trustees, along with current and past administrative leadership, was undertaking an in-depth review of Rumsey's policies and procedures for preventing and reporting abuse at our School. The Board engaged Shipman & Goodwin, a law firm with experience in these matters, to provide advice and guidance throughout this process.

As part of this process, and in keeping with Rumsey's values, we invited current and past members of our community with any relevant information to contact Morgan Rueckert, an attorney with Shipman & Goodwin. Attorney Rueckert also interviewed current and past faculty members and reviewed the School's files.

With deep sadness, we report that this investigation did identify allegations of past abuse. Rumsey made confidential insurance settlement payments in 2001 and 2016 to three alumni who alleged inappropriate contact by Robert McGrew in the 1990s. Mr. McGrew was part of the faculty and administration from 1988 to 2000. Mr. McGrew, through his attorney, declined to be interviewed for this investigation but indicated he denied any misconduct. The investigation also corroborated an allegation that Frank Weddell sexually abused a student in the late 1960s. Mr. Weddell was on the faculty from 1967 to 1970. Finally, the investigation corroborated an allegation of sexual misconduct by a past faculty member with a student in the 1970s. Each of these allegations were reported to the appropriate authorities and the alleged perpetrators have been banned from our campus. Our decision whether or not to name individuals against whom allegations were made was informed by several criteria, including whether, in our determination, allegations could be corroborated or involved multiple victims, whether there was the potential for additional victims, and whether publicly naming the perpetrator would compromise victims' privacy.

For those who have suffered past abuse as a result of misconduct, we are profoundly sorry. We hope that, at least to some extent, our process, acknowledgement, and effort to responsibly address these issues might provide some degree of support, affirmation and consolation.

We understand that this investigation may not have uncovered all harms due to misconduct that may have been experienced by students while at Rumsey and we commit to appropriately addressing any further information that may come to light. If you have any information that you wish to share, please contact Matthew S. Hoeniger (860-868-0535 or [msh@rumseyhall.org](mailto:msh@rumseyhall.org)) or Attorney Morgan Rueckert (860-251-5821 or [mrueckert@goodwin.com](mailto:mrueckert@goodwin.com)).

In addition to addressing past issues responsibly and compassionately, a primary objective of this process has been, and will continue to be, ensuring a safe and healthy environment in which all current and future Rumsey students feel safe and may flourish. Our review included a focus and examination of current policies, procedures, training, communication, and a reaffirmation of our self-expectations. Our policies and procedures relating to mandated reporting and other related areas have been fully updated and, we believe, are at the forefront of current best practices.

We also updated training for faculty on the importance of appropriate professional behavior, the need to report all boundary violations, and the legal and moral aspects to preventing sexual misconduct. Faculty is taught that the School's fundamental and unquestioned policy will be the immediate reporting to school and legal authorities of any allegation of sexual misconduct. As well, Rumsey has implemented training programs related to electronic communications – relevant in our ever-interconnected world.

Rumsey has been a special place spanning many generations and we aim to ensure that it will continue to be for generations to come. We will succeed only when guided by our values of Honesty, Kindness and Respect; when we make every effort to continually improve ourselves and our community; and when we assure that our culture represents transparency, care and continued self-improvement. We appreciate and thank you for your continued love and dedication to our special School.

Best wishes,



Matthew S. Hoeniger '81  
Headmaster



Nicholas N. Solley '64  
Chairman, Board of Trustees