



June 5, 2019

To the Gow School community,

As you know and appreciate, The Gow School is a special place, a school where students are secure knowing that they may access personalized learning and techniques that successfully bring out their intelligence and full abilities. We provide a rare opportunity, in that regard. Nonetheless, we share much with other schools, and that now includes allegations of past sexual misconduct.

In February, we were contacted by a former student who attended Gow more than 25 years ago. The former student offered details of misconduct by a former teacher. I, as headmaster, along with Gow's attorney, called that former student and discussed the allegations at length. We take this report seriously and we commend the former student for coming forward with difficult revelations.

As we know from other schools and organizations that investigated past allegations of misconduct, those who abuse rarely do so once and never again. Thus, we have reason to believe that there could be other allegations of misconduct of which we are not aware. We therefore retained Julia Hilliker, a partner at the Hodgson Russ law firm in Buffalo, to investigate this claim and any others that may arise as a result of this letter.

We want to emphasize to current families, students, faculty and staff that Gow is a significantly different school than it was decades ago. Professional boundaries are our highest priority at Gow, and are part of our regular dialogue with students and teachers. Our Student and Family Handbook, our employment rules and our community culture all speak to and enforce protecting the health and safety of students and staff. This is our first priority and we pledge to you that will not change.

As you've no doubt read and seen, no institution seems immune to these terrible reports of adults taking advantage of young people and abusing our most vulnerable. Now Gow faces this difficult subject. We want to state clearly that misconduct has no place at Gow. As institutional stewards, we continue to be vigilant to assure a safe and healthy living and learning environment at Gow.

Throwing open the door to any past misconduct is our direct way of confronting brutal facts. We plan to meet our commitment to all alumni and former students. If you have evidence of misconduct, please contact Ms. Hilliker at 716.848.1547 or jhilliker@hodgsonruss.com. Any information shared will be confidential, unless you choose otherwise. We will act appropriately in meeting your wishes on what to do with it.

Finally, we will keep the community apprised on next steps. If you have questions or concerns, please call Ms. Hilliker. Be assured that we will remain focused on our pillars: Kindness, respect, honesty and hard work.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of M. Bradley Rogers Jr. in black ink.

M. Bradley Rogers Jr.
Headmaster

Handwritten signature of John Bullock in black ink.

John Bullock
Chair, Board of Trustees