



December 1, 2016

Dear Community Member,

We have wrapped up the fall term in the classroom, in the studios, on the stage, and on the playing fields and are poised to begin the next. The energy from one term builds into the next, and many who have been a part of the Proctor community for years – faculty, staff, and parents – report that the start of this year has been remarkably strong. These good spirits of Proctor today make it all the more challenging to write a letter raising a painful incident from last year, but we believe in being as open and honest as we can in all matters. We believe transparency only strengthens the Proctor community, so I write today to share what I can about an unfolding process.

We have learned that the Merrimack County Attorney's Office has indicted through the Grand Jury process a former Proctor student. This incident took place on campus in October of 2015, when a young man entered a girls' dormitory – let in by residents of the dorm – after check-in hours and after the faculty in residence had retired for the evening. The indictment alleges a sexual assault took place that night, and the young man has been charged with felony and misdemeanor crimes. The incident is alleged to have taken place on Sunday, October 25th, 2015, and when the school learned of the incident later that same day, we reported it immediately in accordance with all state reporting guidelines. The boy left the school on the same day. Throughout this process, we have cooperated with the state authorities in their investigation. As a school we always work to promote the health, welfare and safety of our students and community, and those values have guided our approach to this matter. There is no place at Proctor for assault, sexual or otherwise, and we work hard to ensure the well-being of all students.

It is also important to realize that it is, and has been, beyond the scope of the school to resolve this matter. At this time the case sits, appropriately, with the court system. We are saddened by the impact this incident has had on our community, and the young woman's well-being is of particular concern.

No educator, none that I know, can ever see something like this without feeling a sense of profound regret and deep sorrow. Ours is a mission to unlock the wonders of the world to our students and to give them the necessary tools to

navigate an ever-changing, complex landscape. Ours is also the role of guide, and in that role we often believe that we can always protect those in our charge with rules, values, education, and mentoring. Events like this challenge that faith. But we must also realize that no school is ever finished in the process of fulfilling its mission, no school is ever perfect, and all schools can and should commit to becoming better. We continue to do everything that we can to learn from this event to improve Proctor and our shared commitment to our core values of honesty, compassion, respect, and responsibility. Through visiting speakers, collaborative work with local support agencies, new residential life initiatives, and open dialogue in classrooms, advisories, dormitories, and on teams, we continue to advance the ongoing conversation and education within our community around healthy relationships. We believe our students are safe and well supervised, and we fully understand the weight of this responsibility.

Supporting our students has always been, and will always be, our highest priority. Advisors will be meeting with students to answer any questions and will be available for guidance. If you need to reach out, please don't hesitate to do so. We want to answer questions, but we will do so with respect and sensitivity to the seriousness of the situation. In addition, we'll want to express to students the importance of supporting the young woman as a member of our community. I ask for your continued assistance in being thoughtful in your communications as we work to support our community.

I invite you to reach out to me with questions or concerns via email (mike@proctoracademy.org) or over the phone (603-735-6210) at any time.

Respectfully,



Mike Henriques
Head of School