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Robert Sharp

4 April · San Francisco, CA, United States ·

Another letter to ASIJ, this one from JB Handley (also Class of '87):

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April 4, 2014

ASIJ Boards of Directors & Trustees
c/o Ms. Stephanie Toppino, Board Chair

The American School in Japan
1-1-1 Nomizu, Chofu-shi,
Tokyo, 182-0031, Japan

The way forward for ASIJ

"With this penalty, it is true that all of us in some way now shoulder the burden for the wrongdoings of others. Students, faculty, staff and alumni who had no involvement, or even knowledge of who Jerry Sandusky was, now share in the responsibility of leaders who failed. To many, it is simply unfair.

I think, however, that acceptance of this responsibility will be essential to our ability to lay a new foundation and integral to the long-term character of our institution. In the face of this adversity, I am proud of the many students, faculty and alumni who have banded together with grace, humility and determination."

- Rodney Erickson, President, Penn State University, "The way forward for Penn State", Washington Post, July 27, 2012

Dear ASIJ Boards of Directors & Trustees:

I am a (fiercely) proud graduate of ASIJ, having attended the school from 1981-1987, my 7th to 12th grade years. The school prepared me for my adult life in a way for which I have always been grateful and I continue to hold many of the teachers of my era in the highest esteem for what they taught me and how they influenced my life. Like many ASIJ grads, my high school friends remain my closest in the world and I'm in touch with many of them on a daily basis.

After leaving ASIJ, I attended Stanford and then entered the business world. For the past 20 years I have worked in the private equity industry and the firm I founded is now a multi-billion dollar asset manager that has owned more than 40 private companies. I have served as the Chairman of over a dozen companies and have dealt with my share of crisis, although nothing of the magnitude all of you now face, as I believe the very future of ASIJ is at stake depending on how you collectively choose to conduct yourselves in moving the ASIJ community through this crisis.

I quote the President of Penn State above because I have been impressed with how Penn State has chosen to deal with their child sex abuse crisis and, as you will see, I'm angered that ASIJ hasn't been more inclined to follow Penn State's lead in addressing a disaster of this magnitude.

Like many ASIJ grads, I received the Community Announcement on March 17, 2014 acknowledging Jack Moyer's sexual abuse of ASIJ students. On one level, it's a welcome first step to finally air the truth in public about what Jack Moyer ("Moyer") did to so many ASIJ children, however long overdue it might be. I

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commend you for being the first set of leaders at ASIJ who have chosen to take a step towards "doing the right thing."

However, the path ASIJ appears to be on in dealing with this topic is, in my opinion, not only inadequate but, I fear, will do more harm than good to the victims of Moyer's abuse and to the institution of ASIJ.

On that note, I want to make a clear point: we are ALL stakeholders in the outcome of how this crisis is handled. Every alumni, every former faculty member, every parent, every current student, all the current teachers and administrators, every Board member who ever served, we ALL care deeply that ASIJ does things the right way. Those of you in charge of things right now have much at stake, and we are looking to you to do things the right way and restore the good name of an institution that many love deeply, myself included.

I'm going to share with you some observations and comments about the scandal to date and then make some recommendations I hope the Board will consider in charting a different course in the future.

First, some observations:

1. ASIJ's Moyer sex abuse scandal is every bit as bad as the Jerry Sandusky scandal at Penn State.

As I have learned more details about the scope of Moyer's wrongdoings, I am astonished at the sheer magnitude of the wake of destruction that his 28-year rampage (1962-2000) through ASIJ has left behind. (It's disturbing to note that Mr. Moyer abused ASIJ's children for a full 25% of the school's storied history—28 of the present 112 years the school has been in existence.)

Jack Moyer raped, sodomized, molested, and psychologically tormented at least 12 ASIJ girls (the number he personally confessed to in a deeply disturbing email, a copy of which is included here as Addendum A), including at least one of my classmates and friends, Jennifer Vogel Laurie. According to a recent article in The Japan Times, that number is likely closer to 32 victims, and my own guess is that it will end up much higher—I have personally heard of several new incidences of abuse in just the last few days from other alumni (including that Mr. Moyer may have impregnated a faculty member's daughter). It's worth noting that the abuse cases I have heard of come from graduates of the 70s, 80s, and 90s—three different decades of abuse!

Who knows how many ASIJ alums will have their memories jarred loose or decide to make their abuses at the hand of Moyer public because of this new stage in the crisis? It's likely to get much worse, and impossible to predict.

Jerry Sandusky was sent to prison for molesting 10 boys. In total, 32 victims have filed a claim with Penn State. Coincidentally, that's the same number of cases named by The Japan Times. Can we all agree that, at least in terms of the scale of the crime, the Jack Moyer sexual molestation scandal is every bit as big as the Jerry Sandusky scandal?

Moreover, both Sandusky and Moyer preyed on incredibly vulnerable, young children, with most of Moyer's victims being 11 or 12 years old.

Worse, the cover-up on the part of past ASIJ administrators is in my opinion more egregious than the cover-up that happened at Penn State.

2. ASIJ administrators have clearly, explicitly, and repeatedly covered-up Jack Moyer's abuse of ASIJ girls, and allowed him for many additional years to continue to rape, sodomize, and molest children after allegations were first made.

There is simply no refuting that ASIJ administrators were told that Jack Moyer had sexually abused young girls and that not only did they look the other way but that Moyer was allowed to continue to interact with young children for 23

YEARS after allegations first surfaced. 23 years of abuse that could and should have been prevented!

In order to make sure there's no dispute about the veracity of the number of times the administration has been warned or told about Jack Moyer, I will spell out the incidences that I was able to put together, keeping in mind that my scope of information gathering is very limited, it is HIGHLY likely that there were far more instances of reporting to ASIJ administration that took place:

1977: From Janet Calcote Simmons, "In 1977 another girl was sexually molested by Mr. J. She was 16. She reported this behavior to her parents who in turn spoke with the school. They were told that the school would handle it. This student was forced to continue to attend a school where a teacher not only molested her but the administration did nothing and her friend and those around her told her that she was making too big of a deal about it."

Late 70s: From Alumnus, Class of '87: "FYI staff did approach Mr Downs (headmaster) & were told to back or lose their jobs.. 2 that I definitely know about were back in late 70's. One of the boarders (there was a boarding house for asij kids for a while) moved in with Moyer. 2 staff members tried to stop it..."

1982 or 1983: From Janet Calcote Simmons, "Beginning in 1973 another student was sexually abused and her abuse lasted until 1975. She was 13 years old when it started. She and I attended Miyake together during Spring Break of

1973. She reminded me of this event, as I thought my last time out to Miyake was in 1972. I did not know at the time that she was being abused by him. She wrote Mr. J a letter in 1975 telling him to stop abusing her and to stay away from her. She then informed the school through a written letter in 1982 or 1983. She said she thought that Mr. J was then asked to leave the school."

1986: From Alumnus, class of '86, "My family never officially met with the school as Mr. Downs wouldn't take an appointment with my mother. She only spoke with him on the phone. This was in the Fall of 1986." [Note: the parents called the school to report the abuse of their 7th grade daughter who was class of '91]

1990: From Janet Calcote Simmons, "in 1990 the ASIJ '70's decade had a reunion in Long Beach, California. Part of the reunion celebrated the favorite faculty member whom we all found to be most influential in our lives. Mr. J tied with another teacher as the "favorite teacher" of the '70's decade. When I informed the reunion committee about my experience with him I told them that if they announced him as the winner of the award, then I would bring my story out. The problem was that they had already informed both teachers of their nominations. They then had to retract the award from Mr. J and although I wasn't told about the circumstances I feel certain that the school was informed and involved in this process."

2000: From Janet Calcote Simmons, "Again, in 2000 after receiving the solicitation letter from another alumnus, asking for money to help Mr. J because of the devastation of Miyake due to the volcano erupting, I formally contacted the school via the then present headmaster. He did not respond to my letter causing me to again correspond with him requesting confirmation that my letter arrived in his office and to make sure he had received it. I finally received confirmation that my letter indeed was received and that the board was going to meet after this and determine their next course of action. I was never informed about their actions." [Please see complete copy of letter as Addendum B]

2001: From Janet Calcote Simmons, "Later on, in 2001, through the '70's yahoo web site, our former headmaster's wife [Vicky Downs] sent out a request asking anyone to recall their memories they had at Miyake for the book. 'The American School in Japan: A History of our First Century'. She received several responses

from different students and then suddenly her contacts with us stopped. I sent her an email letting her know that I didn't have a problem with her contacting people about Miyake, because I felt that there was a part of Miyake that was good and memorable for many people. Not everyone there had been subjected to his abuse and the program was a wonderful part of ASIJ's history. In my letter to her, I told her that I felt like she had stopped talking with us because of her fear of what might come out because of my previous letter to the school. I told her not to be concerned with me because I had no intention of hurting the school or anyone else. However, I must not have made it clear to her that aggrandizing him in the book would be a horribly cruel thing to do to those of us who have been quietly sitting back living with the pain and distress of our own private memories. She also did not respond to my letter. I am still truly baffled."

2003: Letter from Janet Calcote Simmons to Tim Carr, included as Addendum B

2003: Headmaster Tim Carr responds to Janet Calcote Simmons, acknowledging receipt of her letter, included as Addendum C

2011: From Janet Calcote Simmons, "In December of 2011 I received an email from '68 ASIJ Alum, David Burns. David was also a graduate of Penn State. When the Penn State scandal hit the news he remembered some mumblings about ASIJ and googled "ASIJ sexual abuse". He came across my blog and read it in full before contacting me. His initial contact with me included a draft letter to the ASIJ administration asking for accountability from the administration for the Jack Moyer victims and for those possibly yet identified primarily in the Japanese community. David mailed his first letter to ASIJ Chairman of the Board on December 9, 2011. By the end of January he had not heard or received a response from ASIJ. It wasn't until February 20, 2012 that he received a letter from the Head of School. The letter stated that the board chair had received the correspondence and that both the Head of School and the board chair were not in their current positions in 2004 when this all came to light."

2012: From Janet Calcote Simmons, "Meanwhile, being disappointed in the school's response to his letter, David wrote another letter to the Chairman of the Board in November of 2012. One paragraph of that letter read, "I attach my previous letter and urge you to reconsider your silence and apparent inaction. It can seem unfair that the previous boards have failed to deal appropriately with this case and that it ends up in your laps. However, the fact remains that the school has not fulfilled its obligation to deal with this publicly. It is now your responsibility."

2012: From Janet Calcote Simmons, "On December 1, 2012 he followed up with an email to the Head of School calling again for public action. He received another response in February basically saying, 'We are looking into it and I can't say anything else at this time.'"

2013 (November): Letter From Jennifer Vogel Laurie to the school, please see complete copy as Addendum D.

Two other data points are worth mentioning that clearly support how much the administration knew about Jack Moyer's pedophilia and abuse:

- Moyer may have been asked to leave the school after the 1983-84 school year, as Janet Simmons' 82-83 note above implies. According to an email from Moyer, around that time he tried to commit suicide and ended up in a mental hospital in California for an extended stay (I remember Moyer's disappearance back then as I was a Freshman at the time—we were told Moyer had gone on sabbatical.) Obviously, the administration knew they had a problem and it appears he responded with a suicide attempt (as he did again in 2004 when he was being confronted by his victims, see blog here).

Astonishingly, after attempting to commit suicide, spending time in a mental hospital and being asked to leave the school for molesting children, Moyer was welcomed back to ASIJ to run the Miyake program for another 16 years! I have vivid memories of Moyer being a consistent presence at ASIJ during my junior and senior years (1985-87).

- When Moyer committed suicide in 2004, not a single active member of ASIJ's faculty or administration attended his funeral—the word was clearly out that when it came to Jack Moyer, everyone needed to stay away. But still, no public comments or outreach to any victims.

Did ASIJ's administration and faculty knowingly cover-up Jack Moyer's abuse of ASIJ students and therefore allow many more girls to have their lives damaged? Unequivocally yes.

Did they remain silent despite a growing body of evidence that Moyer had molested dozens of girls? Unequivocally yes.

The minute you learn of sexual abuse and don't move to stop it, you are equally culpable!

(Note: This list is nowhere near exhaustive. I have been looking into this issue for just over a week, I'm only in touch with a fraction of the alumni who overlapped with Moyer, and I could come up with all of that, imagine how much more information there must be!)

3. The "modern" leadership (after 2000) of ASIJ has been equally dishonest and unproductive in resolving this issue.

The email sent from ASIJ a few weeks ago stated:

"This past November, we received a letter from a former ASIJ student detailing sexual abuse by a former ASIJ teacher, Jack Moyer. Moyer was employed as a middle school teacher from 1963 - 84. Based on other information we have been able to gather, as well as an acknowledgement made by Moyer to another affected student prior to his death in 2004, we believe he engaged in inappropriate sexual contact with students during his teaching tenure at ASIJ."

This struck me as playing a very unproductive semantic game. A casual reader would likely infer that ASIJ learned of Moyer's abuses in November 2013, which, as the above list illuminates quite vividly, couldn't be farther from the truth—I think it's insulting to many that ASIJ's Board chose to phrase things this way, it looks like you're hiding something and trying to deflect responsibility. And, it's simply a lie.

The modern administration of ASIJ (from 2000 forward) has, until one month ago (so for 13 long years, 2000-2014) also done the wrong thing by never making the Moyer abuses public. We know for certain the acting of ASIJ Headmaster was contacted with very explicit information about Moyer in 2000, 2003, 2011, 2012, and 2013. Where the hell have you guys been?

I think one of Moyer's victims explains some of the reasons why this code of silence is so damaging to all the ASIJ sexual abuse victims:

"Regardless of whether anyone in the current administration was working there when the abuse was taking place, you still have the responsibility to bring this issue into the light, publicly, and make a concerted and true effort to make sure that all of the victims are helped. There could still be other unidentified victims out there who need assistance. The current administration has the opportunity to do the right thing."

- Jennifer Vogel Laurie, Class of '87

It's absolutely shameful that ASIJ has been so slow and resistant to deal with this issue. Janet Calcote Simmons' blog, as you are well aware, was created in

September 2009, and by February of 2010 her entire story was in the public realm, including a complete background of the events leading up to Moyer's suicide, and yet it still took FOUR MORE YEARS for ASIJ to do the right thing? It's embarrassing, I believe, for anyone associated with the school to have such weak-willed and misguided leadership.

The victims of Moyer's abuse have literally had to grab ASIJ's leadership by the nose and pull them out of the shadows. Do the victims really have to do all the work?

The victims benefit greatly from knowing they aren't alone, from having the wrongdoing against them acknowledged, and from having the institution that was supposed to have their back take ownership of its failing. Yet, ASIJ has delayed, delayed, delayed, and delayed in playing a role in healing Moyer's victims—it's absolutely shameful!

I'm afraid the report by Louis Freeh addressing the Penn State scandal could be used in carbon-copy form to describe what happened at ASIJ:

"Our most saddening and sobering finding is the total disregard for the safety and welfare of Sandusky's child victims by the most senior leaders at Penn State. The most powerful men at Penn State failed to take any steps for 14 years to protect the children who Sandusky victimized. Messrs. Spanier, Schultz, Paterno and Curley never demonstrated, through actions or words, any concern for the safety and well-being of Sandusky's victims until after Sandusky's arrest."

I am very concerned about the ability of the current Board and administration to take ownership for all the past failings that have taken place and move this institution forward. How many of you have been part of the embarrassing delays? How many of you chose to hide and bury this issue in 2003, 2011, or 2012? (As I talk about "cleaning house" below, I think those of you who have been advocates of the recent delays by ASIJ are also culpable for the culture that's gotten things so wrong and you should step aside.)

4. It appears that a misguided focus on "liability containment" is keeping you from putting the victims first.

It's critical that the Board exercise some moral courage without the overhang of risk mitigation that an attorney (or an insurance carrier's attorney) will preach to you. The 3/17 email that ASIJ wrote—clearly either written or heavily edited by an attorney—is a great example of how legal advice can backfire on you. The insincerity of that email, the misrepresentation of the timing of what ASIJ knew (implying it was just a few months ago), and the lack of heart in general really, really inflamed me and many of my classmates.

You need to take a step back and do the "right thing" rather than the "legal advice thing" if you want to get this right:

- Focusing on present day risk-mitigation seems absurd when you consider how blatantly ASIJ failed its students in the past. Talk about liability? ASIJ knowingly kept a pedophile on staff for 23 years AFTER the first known complaint (1977) about his behavior and he raped, sodomized, and molested what will likely turn out to be 3-dozen or more adolescent girls. It's hard to have much more liability for wrongdoing than that—Jack Moyer should have been in jail in the late 70s!

- Penn State chose to be proactive in reaching settlements with each victim in a way that was reasonable, confidential, and respectful. You SHOULD compensate the victims of Moyer's abuses, simply because it is the right thing to do and because they deserve the acknowledgement for the suffering they have all borne for so many years without any institutional support.

Here's how Penn State talks about their settlements with victims:

"The Board of Trustees has had as one of its primary objectives to reach settlements in a way that is fair and respects the privacy of the individuals involved," said Keith Masser, chair of the Board of Trustees. "This is another important milestone in accomplishing that goal. I would like to thank the board's Legal and Compliance Committee, as well as its Legal Subcommittee for its leadership throughout this process."

"We hope this is another step forward in the healing process for those hurt by Mr. Sandusky, and another step forward for Penn State," said University President Rodney Erickson. "We cannot undo what has been done, but we can and must do everything possible to learn from this and ensure it never happens again at Penn State."

ASIJ would be well-served to follow a similar approach with its victims. It's understood that one of the primary reasons victims of malpractice sue their doctors isn't because the doctor made a mistake but rather how the victims are treated after the mistake is made. Stonewalling, a lack of acknowledgement, and disrespect in general foment litigation, and it's my observation that ASIJ has made all of these mistakes and continues to do so.

As I said up front, I am fiercely loyal to my alma mater, while still being extremely disappointed with the way this matter has and is being handled.

The goals of doing things the right way are clear:

- Supporting the healing of Jack Moyer's victims, and providing them with justice
- Ensuring that nothing like this ever happens again at ASIJ
- Restoring the good name and goodwill of the institution of ASIJ for all of its alumni, present students, and future generations by doing the right thing

When I look at how Penn State has handled their scandal and compare it to ASIJ, I'm both outraged and embarrassed. Outraged as to why the ASIJ Board hasn't adopted more of the practices that Penn State has employed and embarrassed by how backwards, insular, and blatantly self-serving ASIJ looks by comparison.

As a point of illustration, I'd like to compare a quote from ASIJ's Board Chair in The Japan Times:

"ASIJ has communicated all that it will say publicly on this matter in the letter sent to our community this past Monday."

And, Penn State's President:

"I knew when I accepted the position of president in November — and the Board of Trustees strongly agreed — that, for Penn State to move forward, we would need to uncover and expose the full scope of the university's knowledge of Sandusky's actions. We could not wait for courts to bring evidence to light. So, knowing that we would need to accept accountability for whatever was discovered, the board asked former FBI director Louis Freeh to lead an independent investigation... In a larger sense, the past year's events have brought into focus the pain experienced by victims as well as the insidious crime of child sexual abuse. We owe it to them, and it is our social responsibility, to make the prevention of child sexual abuse a part of our university's mission of teaching, research and service."

I really hope you take the time to read and compare these two statements, side by side, of two leaders in effectively the same position. Which one is choosing to do the right thing above all else? Which one is putting the victims at the front of the line, and focusing on truth, sunshine, and accountability?

I hope, when you read these quotes side by side, that you all feel ashamed for the current course being charted. As an alumnus, I'm certainly ashamed by the course the Board appears to have chosen. If you don't feel ashamed than, frankly, you aren't up to the task of fixing this mess.

I believe Penn State's strategy is the ONLY strategy that gives an institution a fighting chance to survive a scandal of this magnitude. It's the path that restores the integrity of the school, restores the trust and goodwill of its alumni, and protects its current and future students. It may seem like "liability containment" is the prudent way to approach things, but I believe the exact opposite is true. Why has Penn State charted a course so differently from ASIJ?

Here are my recommendations for what I believe the Board must do to move forward and assist in the healing of Jack Moyer's victims, the ASIJ community, and the institution of ASIJ:

1. Establish an open and honest public presence immediately

Your email of March 17, 2014 and public statement to The Japan Times are not remotely enough to heal this mess. It makes you all look like an insular institution circling the wagons and hiding and protecting your own. Penn State, meanwhile, has an entire website dedicated to working their way through the scandal. Be open, be honest, be transparent. Talk to the press. Talk to your alumni. Talk to your current parents and students. And, for God's sake, tell the truth!

2. Hire an independent investigator and get to the bottom of this matter, quickly and completely, and then fix the culture that allowed this to happen

There is so much information out there. Information presently buried in our alumni, former faculty, and former administrators. The whole story, every detail, is known by people who are still very much alive. Jack Moyer's suicide and Ray Down's death are simply no excuse to not get to the bottom of things: how many victims, what were the abuses, who knew, who reported, who covered up? It ALL needs to be aired! How do you move forward without telling the truth? You can't feel badly about exposing a past administrator, they deserve to suffer the public shame of their past transgressions, it's called justice!

Again, I direct you to the Freeh report that Penn State commissioned. Here's a quote from Louis Freeh when the report was released to the public:

"In performing this work, we adhered faithfully to our original mandate: to investigate this matter fully, fairly, and completely, without fear or favor."

You need to name names. Establish culpability, and be honest. It's my guess that people like William E. Ricketson, Jack Collins, James Juergensen, Ray Downs, Peter Cooper, Tim Carr, Robert Winer, Donald Benes, Nancy Kroonenberg, Vicky Downs, and perhaps more may have failed our children. We deserve the truth. There's no keeping it in the family, the family failed our kids and we want answers. This is the ONLY way to heal, restore ASIJ's integrity, and move forward. Give the victims the gift of accountability.

Separately, the Freeh report served a productive, forward-looking purpose:

"The other important part of our charge was to make recommendations to prevent such catastrophic failures to report from ever again occurring at Penn State. The Board of Trustees had requested recommendations as soon as possible, in order to improve policies and procedures regarding the protection of children on its campuses."

It's my understanding that ASIJ intends to govern itself in fortifying itself against future possible transgression to which I would ask the question, "Why on earth would anyone trust ASIJ to do that independently given the history of managing this issue?"

There is something very, very wrong with ASIJ's culture, even today. The choices made by administrators during Moyer's time at ASIJ defy any understanding and are completely and utterly condemnable.

But, the choices that have been made even since 2000 reveal a culture with no moral compass. Something is very wrong at ASIJ that has allowed the leaders of

the school to behave in such a cowardly, insular, amoral way, and I'd like to know how and why it was allowed to happen. The chances of ASIJ self-diagnosing and fixing the culture is exactly zero percent! There needs to be a complete fix in terms of training, reporting relationships, governance, explicit sexual abuse protocols, and Board-Administration relations. True change will only happen by relying on objective third parties to assess and diagnose the problems. The present board and administration have shattered community trust through their collective bungling of this issue for so long.

3. Once all victims have been identified, do everything you can to help them and reach a fair and honest settlement quickly and respectfully

There are likely many victims of Moyer's abuse who have yet to deal with the full range of psychological pain and damage he and ASIJ have caused. ASIJ should be a leader in helping any victim who asks to get the help they need (rather than throwing an unspecified donation at a single charity).

Separately, you need to compensate these victims. This isn't about money, this is about justice and accountability. ASIJ failed its children miserably! This isn't about statute of limitations and legal gamesmanship, it's about doing the right thing! Again, to quote Penn State:

"We are pleased with the progress so far and remain hopeful that the process will result in settlement of many of the civil cases so that the victims will not have to be drawn through the legal process."

I cannot encourage you strongly enough to deal humanely, fairly, confidentially, and quickly to reach fair settlements with the victims who ASIJ failed to protect so blatantly and egregiously for so long. These children were in your care, the care of ASIJ, and ASIJ failed them in the worst possible way.

4. Clean house

Any faculty member or administrator who knowingly stonewalled or covered-up Jack Moyer's abuses needs to be terminated immediately. Penn State fired Joe Paterno and took down his statue. Additionally, the President, Vice President, and Athletic Director of the school were terminated and are currently facing federal charges. No one should be spared who played any role in Moyer's monstrosity, present leadership included. Is there anyone at ASIJ up for the task of truly cleaning house? Does anyone have the moral courage and objectivity to realize that this scandal needs to be purged out of the school completely, and that all stonewallers and enablers are guilty?

5. Have a real plan for how you will ensure this never happens again at ASIJ, and become a learning center for child sex abuse

I look on ASIJ's website and Facebook page and the information about Moyer is nowhere to be found. I get the feeling the plan is just to sweep this all under the rug as soon as possible. Your choice to hide will irreparably damage ASIJ's reputation and integrity and will be a blight on the school for as long as you don't address it.

As an alumnus, you will never see another penny from me or any of my heirs until you do the right thing. As an institution, you are a reflection of my values and who I am and right now we are very misaligned! I hope every alumnus will send you the same message that our wallets are firmly shut until the school does the right thing.

Horace Mann, a highly respected East Coast prep school, is in the middle of their own sex scandal right now. The parallels are alarming:

"There were 30 more victims, three times as many attackers and a deeper coverup of sex abuse at New York City's Horace Mann School than officials — or anyone else — ever revealed, according to an advocacy group of former alumni.

And the rampant pedophilia began as far back as 1962 — adding nearly a decade of predatory horror on top of the scandal.

Even more disturbing, the Horace Mann Action Coalition said it found more than 20 accounts from students or teachers reporting the abuse since the 1970s. The coalition said the early reporting of abuse by alleged victims and staff shows there was a clear effort to cover up the sickening behavior.”

After years of intense alumni pressure, it appears that Horace Mann is finally choosing to do the right thing, according to this article. How long will we all have to wait for ASIJ to follow suit? At Horace Mann, they have endured huge drops in donations, multiple negative press reports, and their alumni had to organize themselves and create an action coalition. Do you want to have the same thing happen to you? What will it be, Penn State or Horace Mann?

In your email, you wrote:

“One of our core stated values at ASIJ is to provide for the social, physical, and emotional well being of our students. We believe that a culture of trust and respect is the very foundation on which all of our educational efforts as a community are based. As we look forward, the school will work to continually ensure that this foundation remains strong.”

For at least 25% of the school’s entire existence, ASIJ failed miserably in this goal of providing for the well-being of its students, a pedophile was given free reign to rape, sodomize, and molest adolescent girls. I hope you can see how hollow that statement sounds to someone who understands what I do about the situation. Real change will come by:

- Establishing a third-party task force to review all procedures and practices in the areas of sexual abuse at ASIJ and then taking action based on that task force’s recommendations
- Like Penn State, using the sordid history of ASIJ’s 28 years with Moyer to become a beacon of truth, learning, and training about sexual abuse, as Penn State has chosen to do. You can’t run from what Moyer did, it’s a permanent legacy of ASIJ

I believe if you take the above actions proactively, with sincerity and seriousness, the respect and integrity that ASIJ is losing by the day can be restored. You must serve the role of facilitating the healing of so many victims. You must protect the goodwill and reputation of the school. And, most importantly, you must protect the current and future children of ASIJ from ever having something like this happen to them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I respectfully request a response, either by letter or phone, and I look forward to further working with you and the board to restore the good name of an institution so important to you, me, and many other stakeholders in the ASIJ community.

Respectfully submitted,

J.B. Handley
ASIJ Class of '87