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N-4085 Hundvåg, Norway
May 6, 2015

ASIJ Board of Trustees
(open letter)
1-1-1 Nomizu, Chofu-shi,
Tokyo 182-0031, Japan

Dear Board of Trustees:

You hold the future and integrity of our school in your hands at a crucial moment this month when you must decide whether to accept a slate of directors proposed to you. Will you act as a rubber stamp for the director slate as has been the history to date, or will you dig and find the truth and ensure that the school acknowledges, addresses and takes responsibility for past mistakes? ASIJ alumni and former faculty and parents are watching this carefully because we care for our alma mater and are greatly concerned at the way its reputation is being tarnished.

The Japan Times published an article on April 24 entitled "Lack of progress in probe into ASIJ ex-teacher's sex abuses riles victims". This article only touched the surface of this scandal. It seems that many have missed the point about why the ASIJ Board of Directors appears incapable of action. The real reason is that the board has been in express violation of its own conflict of interest policy since at least February 2012 by allowing members who benefit from hiding the facts and depth of the scandal to take part in decisions on the case. These include the Head of School and the Chair of your own Board of Trustees.

I gave the Board of Directors a link to the written confession of pedophile sexual abuser Jack Moyer as early as 2011. The current Head of School and the board, including Stephanie Toppino, willfully ignored my calls in 2011 and 2012 for acknowledgement of responsibility, a thorough investigation and provision of confidential assistance to all possible victims. They ignored questions about the school's obligations to the victims and their families, the police, the school's accrediting bodies and stakeholders. As the Japan Times article documents, these same people misled the ASIJ community last year by claiming they had become aware of the "problem" in November 2013.

On April 24, I sent an open letter to the board of directors demanding that they clean their own house and remove members with conflicts of interest before making further decisions on the Moyer case. I listed ten criteria to use in determining which of their members had to be excluded to preserve the legitimacy of a real investigation. The full text and other documentation incriminating the directors and administration may be seen at the ASIJ class of 1968's website, www.asij1968.com/moyer.

The ASIJ directors' silence in the wake of my letter confirms that they are incapable of cleaning their own house. The result is that it is up to you trustees to see that this is done. It is your mandate and responsibility to hold them accountable. Please insist on sufficient time to digest the full text of the independent investigative report before continuing. I would strongly recommend requiring each director candidate to provide answers to the ten criteria in my April 24 letter to aid you in determining who will be making critical decisions on the next board of directors. Trustees who have conflicts of interest must be recused from deliberations.

You are possibly already aware that an internal purge may be occurring within the Board of Directors to suppress the truth about the failure to address sexual abuse at ASIJ. Two

statutory auditors are on this board as required by Japanese law. They have responsibility for oversight of an independent investigation. There is an indication that one of these persons will not be re-nominated for trustee approval. If this is true, it is very disturbing since it occurs before the investigative report is issued.

Concerned alumni have received messages from parents and trustees who are afraid to speak out in the current atmosphere. They feel intimidated by the “crew in charge” whom some view as vengeful and bullying. They fear that their children may suffer if they oppose the school’s cover-up. With the history of administrative failure to acknowledge what was known for decades, this kind of atmosphere is completely unacceptable. A thorough housecleaning is mandatory.

In addition to rejecting any re-appointments of the current Chair, Head of School and others who are complicit in the cover-up and requiring a new slate of directors who are persons of integrity, it is important that the trustees ensure that the complete investigative report is published immediately. Complicit members of the school administration and the board of directors must not be allowed to leave in good standing. Delaying the publication of the investigative report until after the end of the current school year will protect those who are guilty of covering up child rape and other criminal pedophile activities and of delaying assistance to victims, by allowing them to move on in “good standing” to other responsible positions with children. This must not happen!

We must continually remember that the primary reason we are engaged in this discussion is to ensure compassion and justice for all who have become victims of sexual abuse through the school’s past failings. It is unfortunately necessary to repeat the conclusion of my letter to the directors. “Though much time has passed, there are still victims suffering from pain, guilt and anger, some of whom may not know that they are not alone in this. Sexual abuse has life-long consequences. ASIJ has a solemn duty to offer confidential assistance to all possible victims, and to help as many people and other schools as possible to learn from the lessons that the school learns through this process.”

The ASIJ community has confidence that you can do what is right. Much is at stake. We are depending on you.

Yours sincerely,

David R. Bruns
ASIJ Class of 1968

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