

May 7, 2018

Statement regarding Ed Kline

I have been asked to provide a written statement regarding my assessment and accounts of actions and behaviors relevant to this investigation.

Culture: I would describe the culture as "female-favored", with numerous examples of overly friendly interactions with current students. Specifically, a daily routine of girls coming into his office to talk about their problems, await a compliment about their appearance or clothing, or just hang out. Most people would describe this behavior as flirting. Males were not welcome – as evidenced by their absence from the office and a very aggressive attitude towards them. Recently, I heard a comment from a current male student regarding upcoming elections: "It doesn't matter who runs, *(he)* will just put a girl in that position anyways." I have observed these types of behaviors often over the past ten years, but I found it especially disturbing when it happened two years ago at Solon Middle School. This behavior extended to the students not only in 8th grade band, but also in orchestra - as my students came into my class they were drawn into his SMS office to play this game as well.

Grooming: In summer 2016, I was hired at BW to teach at their orchestra camp, and was required to take this online training program: www.d21.org/the-issue/ Darkness to light is an online training program designed to heighten awareness and effect prevention of child sexual abuse. After doing this training, I thought long and hard about meeting with the SHS Principal to discuss my discomfort with the culture prevalent in the music department. I eventually did meet with her in August 2016, and I specifically mentioned unnecessary contact with female students, although I was unable to formulate a more detailed explanation for my discomfort. We concluded our meeting with an exchange that went something like this: E: "Do you think he is actually doing anything with students?", and at which time I responded "No." Since that time, I am able to identify what I previously thought were harmless behaviors as "grooming" techniques: light touching while communicating with students; being unnaturally close to female students while talking to them, especially to the side, whispering in the ear, touching an elbow, or even arm around to the other shoulder while whispering (during large group rehearsal), a long history of students coming to his office with emergency "personal" issues, that he was eager to assist in, as he was "better suited to help than guidance." I have also observed on at least one occasion him leaning over/behind a student to pin something on the board in the copier room while demonstrating how to go about copying. I am ready to elaborate on these issues/instances if necessary.

Opportunity: You have asked me about the nature of the office at the HS, and if passes were written to be in the office during planning periods. The answer is yes. I have observed students, alone as well as with others: in the office during 3rd period when I arrive at the HS coming from SMS; during the lunch period 4c when I have time to get lunch and collaborate with E and MM; and also during 6th period, as I leave to travel to SMS (I often travel through the band room to turn off lights). I am not there all the time, so cannot speak to every minute of those times, nor can I definitively say anything was happening with students. Furthermore, the way the office is designed shields parts of the office from visual observation. There have been times when I have gone into the office, empty, to find a student in the copy room. There have been times when I have shown up to find E alone in the office, and a student in the copy room. It is possible for other combinations to be

Admission: On Tuesday March 6, 2018, I came to the HS at 10:15 as usual. When I arrived in the office, E closed the door, and in front of MM (and despite MMs objections) told me that he had a meeting with administration in one week regarding accusations leveled against him by a former student. He continued by saying that "you

must have noticed that something was wrong since January." My response was stunned silence, followed by horror on his behalf. I told him that I was unaware and therefore very surprised. With great emotion, he admitted that he had screwed up, that "he could lose everything" as a result. He then pleaded to both of us, "asking for a favor" that we vouch for him, that we are always with him during lunch, and to me specifically, that "you're always here during 6th period." I was stunned: My response was that I could only tell them what I do every day. It was clear to me that he expected me to lie about my presence in that room in order to vindicate him with regard to the allegations leveled against him.

History: In 2009-2010, I walked in on him and the then current president of Solon Music Parents (name here) engaged in some type of inappropriate touching: the door was slightly ajar, shielding the view of inside, I heard scrambling as I approached, observed and heard what appeared to be the adjusting of clothes, embarrassed looks, blushing, him standing, her sitting on the couch, moving quickly away from each other. Very embarrassing – I asked him later what the hell was going on and he threateningly said "there's nothing happening here, Gerry." She never appeared again during school, so I didn't pursue the issue.

Personal History: In 2010, my wife spoke to me about him regarding my daughters, both students in Solon – "You are never to leave him alone with our daughters – he cannot keep his eyes up." Even in December 2017, when my daughter and wife attended a concert to see my son, my wife observed him ogling my eldest daughter as they came to find me after a concert. She again warned me about him.

Sexual Harrassment: With respect to student teachers, I have observed overtly harassing behavior: Sexual comments (sexist behavior amongst guys) that while I frequently thought were over the line, went along with because I didn't want to be the "sensitive one." But this went beyond the usual "locker room" talk that sometimes occur between men that work together. This was specifically the treatment of student teachers that was an issue. I was told by him that these types of comments were "OK, because I asked her if she was ok with being one of the guys," but clearly that was a question that she had to agree with before he would approve her student teaching here. He was in a position of power, requiring her to accept this as part of the terms for student teaching. One of my other colleagues can corroborate that I objected to this type of offensive behavior, which often peaked during lunch time gatherings.

These things I am prepared to attest to in a court proceeding.

Gerrit M. Boyer 5/8/18