October 4, 2018

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We, as over 140 Organized Alumni & Allies, give you the opportunity here and now to own your past and recent mistakes in a forum that allows for forgiveness. We ask you to stop denying and instead, come forward to us. We have come to you, with unsatisfactory results. Now, we ask you to come forward to us and the larger community, in a spirit of true reconciliation.

In order to achieve this, you will need to admit to all of your mistakes in handling of child sexual abuse information from the 1990’s to present. This means saying, “I was wrong.”. In doing so, you will begin to rebuild the trust that is so necessary to live out the mission you claim to hold at Lawrence Academy: of “calling on each other to take action for the common good.”

Your discrepancies of word and action are no longer acceptable to any of us. The costs of denial have now begun to outweigh the benefits. It is time. This admission of guilt frees us from the pain of your disregard and simultaneously frees you to move bravely into integrity. If you are able to do this in a public forum before all students, faculty and families, we offer you the assurance of forgiveness, and a way to move forward, together.

We are here to tell you how best to respond. Recognize that Lawrence Academy is a public service institution. This is a community-wide matter. So, our vote counts most.

1. Lift all confidentiality clauses, gag-orders and silencing agreements for students, alumni, faculty, staff & families, immediately and indefinitely, without recourse.
2. Admit to your mistakes publicly, Apologize for these choices and make Amends.
3. Provide written confirmation of immediate settlement of $375,000 as personal injury in full, to former student Vanessa Osage; along with written, enforceable agreement to participate in the Justice CORPS, fully implemented by the 2018-19 school year, to ensure oversight, transparency and safety for all future students.

We give you 30 days to accept these terms, and demonstrate your strengths in action.

This gesture will earn you a measure of credibility as current lawsuits play out. More importantly, it will give proof to the willingness of you as individuals - and Lawrence Academy as an institution - to grow and place the needs of students above all else.

Organized Alumni & Allies
The Amends Project