

Statement from the Presentation High School

PHS has a 55 year history of empowering women. Any statement to the contrary is a gross mischaracterization. Anyone who knows us knows this to be true of the entire history of our school.

PHS strongly disputes the claims made today by a San Jose personal injury attorney that we have not acted properly in handling of reporting allegations of inappropriate behavior in the history of our school since 1962.

For the attorney or others to suggest that at some point in the past PHS could have handled certain cases in a different manner is open to interpretation and is taken to heart. However, for anyone to suggest that PHS has in any manner covered up or condoned any instance of sexual abuse is an outright lie.

As educators and fierce advocates of women's rights, PHS takes any allegations of abuse extremely seriously. Presentation High School unequivocally condemns--and has from the beginning--the type of conduct described.

The facts of these issues are:

PHS conducted an investigation more than 25 years ago into this matter as well as other claims made today. There is no new information provided by this personal injury attorney or the former students.

Due to privacy and confidentiality, we cannot disclose the details or outcomes of our investigations; we sincerely wish that we could reveal more information. Each case described today was investigated and action taken based upon the information provided to the school at the time.

The current PHS Board of Directors has reviewed the past investigations and they are very supportive of the efforts of the PHS administration to address concerns. The Board has expressed its full confidence in the school's administration, both in the past and the present in providing a safe environment for all students.

Now as always, PHS educates and strengthens our young women with programs to prevent sexual misconduct and teach appropriate boundaries to reduce and prevent instances of abuse and bullying.

PHS is committed to the protection of its students, now and in the past. We regularly review, evaluate and update our policies. We are in the process of doing that at the current time. Each member of the school faculty and administration is a mandated reporter of any reasonable suspicion of childhood sexual abuse. Each staff member undergoes mandatory training and acknowledges in writing their designation as a mandated reporter.

When PHS has been alerted by students to instances of inappropriate behavior, we have investigated and taken appropriate action, both internally and externally.

PHS is proud of its actions to protect its students and our history and record demonstrates that fact.

The very reason for Presentation High School's existence is to empower young women to be leaders in today's world and to fight against injustice and sexual abuse.

PHS educates and strengthens young women with programs to prevent sexual misconduct and teach appropriate boundaries to reduce and prevent instances of abuse and bullying.

Mary Miller, Principal