

November 12, 2021

Statement from Burns & Levinson attorney Timothy Conlon

Last Saturday, after meeting behind closed doors for nearly 6 hours, the North Kingstown School Committee (NKSC) released a statement regarding the North Kingstown School Department (NKSD)'s handling of a former coach.

As has been reported, I represent some of the young men who have come forward regarding what took place at the school. I was asked for a response to that statement.

My clients want me to respond to that statement, and to Ms. Lima, the school committee member who has publicly revealed that it was her [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

I will start with the School Committee's public statement:

The School Committee began by acknowledging that:

“there is still information we need to learn.”

We agree.

The School Committee specifically cited an interest in determining what ‘actionable information’ the administration obtained and when.

We want the School Committee to have that information.

The School Committee states it wants transparency.

We share that goal.

Public awareness is step one in protecting students, and accountability. In that regard I want to thank the media for its tireless efforts in pursuit of this story.

The School Committee concluded by asking that “anyone with additional information contact the police and “the North Kingstown School Department.”

I am going to provide this statement, and the accompanying documents to the North Kingstown School Committee, and, given NKSC's stated interest in transparency, to the many media outlets that have requested comment.

The School Committee's statement provides that:

"In 2018, the North Kingstown School Department received information from a former student," the individual said he was 'not naked' during the test 'and declined to provide any other information when questioned about the incident.

We have additional information on that point.

At least two alumini spoke with North Kingstown officials on a total of 4 occasions in 2018, and advised that they were naked when examined, alone with a school department coach, on school department property. They identified the coach. Each young man stated that he was touched, and subjected to a series of pinches using the employees fingers and a caliper device. Both boys described one of the pinches was on his inner thigh within inches of his genitals.

These young men made it clear at the time (2018) that their experiences were **not** to be taken in isolation, and that naked, one on one examination or 'testing' of students had been routinized within the school. They further advised these practices were so routine that there had to be some level of awareness on the part of other school personnel at the time. One young man named those officials who he believed had at least some knowledge of the practices.

To our knowledge, no report was made regarding these matters to the Department of Education, or the Department for Children, Youth and Families at or around that time.

The School Committee statement goes on to reference a report by "a separate former student" regarding that same coach's activities, which report came to them in February of 2021, and indicates that the North Kingstown Police were "then notified of the allegation."

The School Committee does not make reference to, and we therefore do not know whether they are aware, that one of my clients communicated in writing with School Department officials Denise Mancieri, and Phillip Auger at that time. His email

advised that that these practices took place

with “dozens if not hundreds of boys”

and that named employees:

“watched us all go into [the] office frequently, only to come out with the forms you see attached.”

I have provided redacted copies of these emails and the forms with this statement.

To our knowledge, no report was made regarding these matters to the Department of Education, or the Department for Children, Youth and Families at or around that time.

As part of my clients’ ongoing cooperation with Law Enforcement we have provided the Attorney General with un-redacted versions of these documents.

Although there much more that I could say regarding the NKSC statement, I think it is important to address the families of the young men and the young men involved.

Indeed, the NKSC statement is addressed to the “North Kingstown School Families and Community,” and expresses concern “with providing support and closure to any of our students and their families who may have been affected.” They urged such persons to “seek out counseling as needed.”

I want to get some information out in that regard.

We all understand that any parents’ obvious concern would be what happened to their child. Having represented children and adult survivors for decades, the suggestion that counselling may be helpful, either to parents or children is spot on.

I have read that one member of the Committee has made a personal public statement confirming that her child was tested by this coach. She spoke of the difficulties of talking with her child.

I also have spoken privately with parents of children who were at the school.

I think it is important to stress that questioning of your child, even as a young adult, about what happened in a room when the child was alone, naked with an adult may

not help at all. For whatever psychological reason, I have had adult victims as clients for whom telling their parents was one of the hardest things they had to do. They avoided it, and even hid what happened for years.

DayOne - <https://www.dayoneri.org> - has been in the front line supporting children, families and adults in Rhode Island for decades when we are grappling with events that occurred during someone's childhood.

I have spoken with Peg Langhammer, the director of DayOne, and she has asked me to provide the following number specifically set up to address these needs.

401.421.4100 x444

If you or a family member need help in addressing this, or want to speak to a mental health professional they are available.

To the extent that families have information in aid of our civil investigation on behalf of clients, or want to inquire to discuss to legal issues, they can contact my office at:

401.831.8370

We have provided this statement to the Rhode Island Department of the Attorney General, the Rhode Island Department of Education, and the Rhode Island Department for Children, Youth, and Families, and encourage all persons with additional information to do so as well.

I just want to commend the RI AG for their diligence in working with these young men.

From: [REDACTED] John Doe 1 [REDACTED]
Date: February 12, 2021 at 6:43:37 PM EST
To: "Mancieri, Denise" <denise_mancieri@nksd.net>, Phil_Auger@nksd.net
Subject: Re: Aaron Thomas

Got it, thanks Denise. Adding Dr. Augher.

John Doe 2 met with the detectives face-to-face at the station, I don't think it was off the record or anonymous. Use that info as you may, I trust you'll safeguard my identity and that of my family.

On Feb 12, 2021, at 6:24 PM, Mancieri, Denise <denise_mancieri@nksd.net> wrote:

John Doe 1,

Our superintendent's email is Phil_Auger@nksd.net. I would ask that you include him in your correspondence as he is leading this investigation. I know [REDACTED]. Did John Doe 2 use his name for that investigation or stay anonymous? No one brought that to the school department.

I will share this with Dr. Augher.

Sincerely,
Denise

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 6:10 PM [REDACTED]
John Doe 1 [REDACTED] wrote:
Denise,

John Doe 2 told Officer [REDACTED] and another investigator at the police station in 2Q 2018, shortly after the Larry Nassar story broke and [REDACTED] was born. [REDACTED] was also fat tested I believe. A request to speak with me was made of John Doe 2 by NKPD but I was living out of state and unwilling to relive the trauma. I've tried to put it out of mind since but the feelings of shame intensified sharply. No action was ever taken by NKPD to my knowledge.

It's my principled belief that NKPD has already failed. Having said that, I'm not opposed to making a statement if that's where this leads.

-John Doe 1

On Feb 12, 2021, at 5:27 PM, Mancieri, Denise <denise_mancieri@nksd.net> wrote:

Thank you for your quick follow up. I have sent this to the Superintendent and the process has begun.

To address your concern, if no one will use their name it is a list of anonymous accusations. The NKPD may want

to interview you or other accusers. It can be confidential or you could refuse to answer their questions.

This will be a very difficult decision and only you can make that determination.

Sincerely,
Denise

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 4:01 PM [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] John Doe 1 [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Denise,

I'm relieved to hear that you take this seriously. This is an open secret in my corner of NK. I assumed I was weak because so many people fat tested and they don't seem to struggle with it like I have.

Start with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The first time I fat tested was 13 years old and in [REDACTED] office. [REDACTED] watched us all go into Thomas's office frequently, only to come out with the forms you see attached. [REDACTED] spent more time with Thomas than anyone.

People I know that were fat tested... John Doe 2

[REDACTED] John Doe 3, [REDACTED] John Doe 4, [REDACTED] John Doe 5, [REDACTED] John Doe 6, [REDACTED] John Doe 7, [REDACTED] John Doe 8, [REDACTED] John Doe 9. Honestly, any person who was in the basketball locker room prior to 2010 will corroborate. Many non-basketball athletes were fat tested too (start with the captains and all state players). I suspect you will have a very easy time finding other victims. If not however, I may be OK urging others to speak out.

I don't have other physical evidence but can provide answers to any questions you have.

The upside of not keeping my name confidential is not obvious to me, but I could be convinced otherwise.

Best,
John Doe 1

On Feb 12, 2021, at 2:33 PM,
Mancieri, Denise
<denise_mancieri@nksd.net> wrote:

Hi **John Doe 1**,

I hope you are well.
We take this email very seriously and
we must investigate.
In order to do this we may need
additional information.

Do you have any evidence or other
names of student athletes that you
can give to me.
You said there are dozens. Will
anyone else come forward?
I would also ask you to reconsider
keeping your name confidential.

Sincerely,
Denise Mancieri

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 4:05 AM 

 **John Doe 1** 

wrote:

Hi Denise,

I hope this email finds you well.
Before starting I ask that you please
keep my name confidential.

I'm a 20XX graduate of NKHS. I'll
spare the intro as I suspect you can
access my educational /
extracurricular history with NKSD.

I'm writing to you because I can no
longer stay silent about the trauma I
was subjected to by Aaron Thomas.

Every month for my entire time at
NKHS Thomas brought me into his
office (protected by CCTV) and
asked me to get naked, then
touched me all over my body. He
did this to dozens if not hundreds of
boys over a ~10 year period to my
knowledge.

I beg you to question him about this
"fat testing" regime and what
purpose it served.

[REDACTED] and I'd love to overcome the deep emotional scars he's inflicted. I pray daily [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] However, knowing that our community broadly understands [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the real harm they've done is my bigger hope.

I'm attaching a note [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I hope this makes real the harm the he can continue to do in his current position.

It's also my strong belief that Thomas's negligence had a similar outcome on my dear friend, [REDACTED]

Lastly, I'm sharing documents proving that Thomas had no stated reason for looking at and touching my privates.

Sincerely and regretfully,
[REDACTED] John Doe I [REDACTED]

--
Denise Mancieri, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
North Kingstown School Department

100 Romano Vineyard Way, Suite
120

North Kingstown, RI 02852

[REDACTED]

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Denise Mancieri, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
North Kingstown School Department

100 Romano Vineyard Way, Suite 120

North Kingstown, RI 02852

[REDACTED]

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--

Denise Mancieri, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
North Kingstown School Department

100 Romano Vineyard Way, Suite 120

North Kingstown, RI 02852

[REDACTED]

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sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of this message.
Thank you.*

Sorry both. I'd like to secure course before discussing further. Please advise how you best to proceed.

Sent from my Phone

On Feb 24, 2021, at 12:32 PM, [REDACTED] John Doe 1 [REDACTED] wrote:

Sounds good, thanks!

Sent from my Phone

On Feb 24, 2021, at 12:04 PM, Phil Auger <phil_auger@nksd.net> wrote:

[REDACTED] John Doe 1,

The district has hired an attorney, Matthew Oliverio, to investigate the allegations you have mentioned.

I gave him your email address, and he is included on this email. He will be contacting you soon to ask some questions.

Phil Auger

From: Phil Auger <phil_auger@nksd.net>

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:46 AM

To: [REDACTED] John Doe 1 [REDACTED]

Cc: 'Mancieri, Denise' <denise_mancieri@nksd.net>

Subject: Follow up on allegation

[REDACTED] John Doe 1,

Thank you for coming forward with the information you sent to Dr. Mancieri and me on Friday. We have a responsibility to involve the police in our investigation. We have forwarded your emails to the NKPD, and Detective [REDACTED] and Lt. [REDACTED] are investigating. I encourage you to call me at [REDACTED] as I would like to ask more questions about these allegations. I also encourage you to contact them at [REDACTED]

Phil Auger

Phil Auger, Ph.D.

Superintendent

North Kingstown School Department

Abbreviations to the Body Fat Spreadsheet

Top of the sheet

Date	Date of test
Age	In Years and Months
WT	In Pounds
AB	Millimeter pinch of the Abdomen
TRI	Millimeter pinch of the Tricep
CH	Millimeter pinch of the Chest
JN	Millimeter pinch of the Juxta-Nipple (Underarm)
TA	Sum of Tricep and Abdomen pinches
TA2	Sum of Tricep and Abdomen pinches squared
BF1	First Body Fat Test
BF2	Second Body Fat Test
BF3	Third Body Fat Test
TBF	Average Body Fat (This number is your body fat)
LBW	Lean Body Weight (Non fat weight)
FTWT	Fat weight in pounds
WT1	Weight test #1 if you had 10 % Body Fat

Bottom of the sheet

Date	Date of test
Age	In Years and Months
HT	In Inches
SH	Millimeter pinch of the top of Shoulder
IL	Millimeter pinch of the Iliac Crest "Love Handle"
HIP	Millimeter pinch of the Hip
WR	Inch measurement of one Wrist.
KN	Inch measurement of both Knees
ANK	Inch measurement of both Ankles
TOT	Formula Value
IND	Weight Index (check to see if it is higher than the previous test which would indicate growth.
WT1	Weight test #1 if you had 10 % Body Fat
WT2	Weight Index times your height. This number represents the amount of weight your body frame could hold. This does not mean that you are under weight.
SWT	Average of WT1 & WT2.
WT	In Pounds
+/-	The difference between SWT minus your weight. The higher the number the more growth left.

DATE	01-07-00	04-05-00	07-01-00	10-04-00	01-05-01	04-10-01	07-06-01	10-02-01	SINCE 1ST	+\-
AGE	14-10	15-1	15-4	15-7	15-10	16-1	16-4	16-7	21 MONTHS	
NECK	12	12.5	12.75	13.25	13.25	13.5	13.5	13.5	1.5	0
CHEST	30.75	31.5	31.75	32.25	33.25	33.5	33.5	34	3.25	0.5
CHEST EX	31.75	33	33.5	33.75	34.5	34.75	34.75	35	3.25	0.25
SHLD	35	36.5	37.75	38	39	39.25	39.75	39.75	4.75	0
REACH	27.75	27.75	27.75	28	28.5	29	29	29	1.25	0
ARM SPAN	65	66.25	66.25	67	67.75	68.5	68.5	68.5	3.5	0
FOREARM	7.5	8	8	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	0.75	0
WRIST	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	0	0
BICEP	9.25	9.75	9.50	9.75	10.25	10.2/10.7	10.2/10.5	10.75	1.50/1.00	0
HAND	7.25	7.25	7.5	7.5	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	0.5	0
HAND ACC	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.5	8.75	9	0.75	0.25	
BACK ACC	14	14.25	14.25	15	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	1.25	0
BACK UP	19	20	21	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	2.5	0
WAIST	27	27.25	27.25	27.75	28.25	28.25	28.25	28.25	1.25	0
ANKLE	10	10	10	10	10	10.25	10.25	10.25	0.25	0
CALF	12.5	12.75	12.75	12.75	13.0/12.7	13	13	13	0.5	0
THIGH	17.25	17.75	17.5	17.75	18	18.75	18.5	18.5	1.25	0
LEG	31.7/33.7	31.7/33.7	31.7/33.7	32.0/34.0	32.0/34.0	32.7/34.7	33.0/35.0	33.0/35.0	1.25	0
HIPS	31	32.25	32.25	32.5	33.25	33.75	33.5	33.5	2.5	0
H-T	63.75	64.75	65.75	66.25	66.25	67	67.5	67.5	3.75	0
W-T	108	113	114	119	124	126	125	126	18	1
C.O.G.	-3.25	-3.25	-3.25	-3.25	-3.25	-3.25	-3.25	-3.25	0	0
WAIST-HIP	4	5	5	4.75	5	5.5	5.25	5.25	1.25	0
FLEXIBILITY										
LEG SPAN	45.5	47	47	49	48	49	49	48.5	3	-0.5
TORSO FLEX	17.5	21	20.5	17	16	17	15.5	22	4.5	6.5
SHLD FLEX	11.5	14	14.5	15	14	14	14.5	15	3.5	0.5

*****NEXT TEST DATE JANUARY 2002