



Babylon Alumni & Allies for Change (BAAC)

Est. November 1st, 2021

March 23rd, 2022

Today's Grand Jury indictment of Babylon School District teacher and coach, Timothy Harrison, is a disquieting reminder of the unsafe culture that has been able to foster for too long at BHS. BAAC continues to extend its support to this victim and all others, as well as current students, affected alumni, and the greater Babylon community. We recognize the difficulty of this situation for all involved and know that it is easy for no one. It is our hope that the multiple counts against this teacher will motivate current District residents to mobilize and join us in our efforts to effect meaningful change for current and future students.

In the nearly 150 days since science teacher and coach, Jeffrey Kenney, resigned in early November, the BUFSD has made little progress in the way of protecting Babylon's children. To date, it has not articulated a comprehensive strategy for transforming the culture within the school that resulted in the victimization of countless young women. Parent and student focus group findings go unshared; the "Let's Talk" reporting app is not yet live; the only policy under revision, the Fraternization Policy, remains in draft with no clear indication of how it will be implemented and overseen; and it appears that no special funds for student and staff training or other preventative and supportive measures have been included in the '22-'23 school year budget. Furthermore, some of the staff members put on leave in November following the community outcry are back at work and coaching their Spring season sports without any explanation to the community or current students.

At the March 14th Board of Education meeting, a current student took to the podium to express what she and many of her peers have experienced as a failure of the administration to act with effective urgency to respond to current student needs. She succinctly articulated the unrealistic expectations put on students in the current formulation of 'support' provided by the district stating, "This is a situation that requires students to recognize they have a problem, acknowledge their feelings, decide to put trust in an adult, find the courage to come forward and then clearly articulate their feelings." She pointed to the fact that as children, they're not at a level of cognitive development where this is an appropriate expectation.

BAAC remains steadfast in its efforts to make BHS safe for all. We continue to work toward our goal of shaping preventative policies and ensuring there are effective implementation and oversight measures in place. We thank the many alumni, parents, and community members who have shared their accounts with NYS Attorney General Letitia James' office and encourage those still on the fence to do so before the discovery phase closes on March 31st.

We envision a world where students are adequately educated about and protected from emotional abuse and sexual violence by the staff members and administrators responsible for their care, and that the responsible parties are held appropriately accountable when they are



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not. Please learn more about how you can support our efforts on our website at wegotyourbaac.org.

For questions about the information contained within this press release or about BAAC and its goals, please contact the team at wegotyourbaac@gmail.com.

ABOUT BAAC

The Babylon Alumni and Allies for Change are a collective who believe that the past abuses revealed by survivors who have come forward deserve to be reckoned with and prevented in the future. We are working to provide healing safe spaces for survivors, while seeking justice and accountability for their experiences, and establishing preventative policies and practices in the Babylon School District.

Learn more at: wegotyourbaac.org