

Letter from A. Watson, February 5, 2018

Dear All,

I want to alert you that the press will soon be bringing last week's email to a broader audience, beginning this evening. Below is the note from the board that we are sharing today with parents and the press about the situation at this point. Later, once the board has met with the concerned parents and conferred, we will be exploring the issues raised in the letter with the community, starting with faculty and staff.

As a reminder, please direct any outside inquiries about this to Cathy Garber or to me. Thank you for your focus on students, your advice, and your mutual support of one another in this difficult time.

Thanks,

Andy

We are aware of the parent letter, and we will be in communication with the Academy community about it after talking with this parent about his concerns. Here is a response for now from our Board of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees respects the thoughts, opinions, and feelings expressed by the letter's author, but we regret that he chose to address his concerns in this manner without attempting to address them first with the Board. We have consistently been very willing to meet with anyone who has concerns regarding our school. The Trustees strive to be responsive to inquiries we receive from members of the school community and external community, and we are always happy to discuss situations and concerns. Any information distributed to the broader Academy community needs to be fully accurate, contextualized, and in line with our mission.

We believe the appropriate place to address the types of concerns raised is first through face-to-face discussions. Often such discussions allow us to come to a common understanding regarding the facts and issues, which is in line with the spirit of respectful discourse that we try to instill in our students. The Board disagrees with many of the assertions made in the letter and believe those could have been addressed and clarified had this been brought to the Trustees before sending the correspondence. In addition, anonymous responses to the letter have spread misinformation about the school. These matters are complex, with many factors to consider, and are not easy or necessarily appropriate for the Board to address in an email. The Trustees have already reached out to the concerned parent and will work diligently to facilitate an in-person meeting with any concerned parents referenced in the letter as soon as possible.

The Board would like the community to know that we are encouraged by the school's current academic outcomes, faculty commitment to our students, and its financial position after many years of work reducing endowment spending closer to a sustainable level. The financial assistance we offer to the community, supported by our endowment and generous donors, is rising again, as are our applications for next year's admission. Most importantly, our students

continue to thrive and achieve great things. We also have the utmost confidence in and support for Head of School Andrew Watson and the leadership team he has in place. We appreciate the support and trust of our community members, and we commit to remaining transparent as we address the issues raised.

*Board of Trustees
Albuquerque Academy*