



# Memorandum

**To:** Alexa Garvey

**From:** Christine Chinni, Chinni & Meuser LLC

**Date:** 5/15/2020

**Re:** Update on Investigation of Timothy Chokas Matter

---

Below, I summarize the further steps I have taken to investigate the above-named matter since our meeting on May 5, 2020.

## ***Publicity***

After our discussion on May 5, 2020, I attempted to join the Stonington Community Forum on Facebook. I was not initially able to do so, as I do not meet the criteria for membership. Ultimately, I was able to join and posted information about the investigation, as well as my contact information, on the Forum page on May 7, 2020. I drafted a similar statement to be shared directly with the school community, which has been sent via the Stonington Public Schools email server to all Stonington High School students, staff and parents.

I also reached out directly to several individuals who have (a) spoken at Stonington Board of Education meetings about this matter, (b) been identified in the *New London Day's* reporting, or (c) have been active on social media concerning Mr. Chokas. To date, none of these individuals has responded.

I also contacted Joe Wojtas of the *New London Day* to inquire as to the genesis of his reporting on this matter. He indicated that students and others reached out to him over a period of time, via email, text, and social media. He also indicated that, as a Stonington resident and parent in the community, he knew many of those who contacted him personally.

### *Increased Communication*

The posting on the Stonington Community Forum quickly led to a number of contacts, both via the confidential email and via text messaging. Between May 8<sup>th</sup> and today, I have interviewed ten (10) individuals, mostly current or former students, but also some adults. All of the interviews have proceeded remotely, either on Zoom, or, in two cases, on FaceTime.

### *Scope of Current / Former Student Interviews*

- (1) Three (3) current and/or former female students stated concerns about Mr. Chokas's treatment of female students in his classes, including themselves.
- (2) One former female student stated that she had heard from a number of friends about negative interactions with Mr. Chokas but had no direct experience of negative interactions with Mr. Chokas herself.
- (3) Two former students of Mr. Chokas, both females, spoke in support of him, and each stated that she had never had any negative interactions with him.

### *Scope of Adult Interviews*

An adult, a parent of several students, indicated that she had had concerns about Mr. Chokas after hearing reports from her child and some other students, and had shared these concerns with the Administration of Stonington High School.

Another adult, Stonington Police Department Youth Officer Thomas Paige, confirmed that the high school administration had consulted with him about incidents with Mr. Chokas in 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 school years and that he had informed the administration that neither matter constituted criminal conduct, but was rather a human resources issue.

### *Continued Referrals*

One of the female students who reported herself to have been the subject of some of Mr. Chokas's inappropriate behavior identified two other students who she believed had experienced inappropriate interactions with him as well. She informed me that these students plan to contact me once they have finished their college exams.

One adult, a parent of one of the student witnesses who had concerns about Mr. Chokas's treatment of her, stated that she and her daughter were comfortable with our interview and they would urge others to come forward.

### *Planned Interviews*

I have scheduled interviews with students, and an adult member of the community who is the father of students who attended the Stonington Public Schools. I am continuing to reach out to individuals with relevant information via email, phone and social media. In

*May 15, 2020*

addition, several witnesses interviewed have stated that they will refer additional witnesses to me for interviews.

I expect additional community members (students, parents, adults) will continue to make themselves available for interviews. As is often the case in investigations into allegations of inappropriate conduct by an adult against minors, once a few witnesses come forward, others choose to participate.

If there are any questions about the course of the investigation to date, please do not hesitate to contact me.