

Denise Myers, nee Geitner, was employed by Elk County Catholic High School from 1991 until June of 2000. She functioned in the following professional capacities:

91-96 Full-time Business Teacher

96-98 Dean of Students, while Business Teacher

98-99 Assistant Principal (Students), while Business Teacher

99-00 Vice Principal (Students), while Business Teacher

She was, at one point, the Chair of the Business Department.

During her tenure she also functioned as a Track Coach (92-00), and at various times as Ski Club and Cheerleading Advisor.

Denise Myers' personnel file, housed at ECC, includes only four yearly reviews (each year 92-95), which we regard as unusual given that they were conducted at the end of each school year for all faculty during the time of her employment. Her file includes some yearly contracts, though a contract was surely completed for each year of her employment. It also includes limited correspondence from herself to John Kowach (Headmaster) either requesting changes or additions to duties, or resigning for a particular facet of her duties in a given year. It does not include any sort of separation document. Her file, and recollections by current administration not in supervisory roles at the time, do not identify reasons for her separation or any sort of severance.

While her file does not note this, it is widely recalled by the present administrators who were fellow teachers at the time, that Denise was frequently absent for unexplained reasons from April 2000 until the end of her tenure.

Vague rumors related to Denise at the end of her tenure were acknowledged by John Kowach (Headmaster) on two occasions: in the context of a faculty meeting and to office staff at the end of the 99-00 school year. It was communicated by John Kowach on these occasions that these unspecified rumors were untrue and that, on an institutional basis, Denise continued to have the full faith of the school administration. In the case of this communication to office staff, one staff member recalls being told that they were to publicly stand behind Denise.

A witness [REDACTED] recalls an appointment between school administrators (John Kowach & Judy Schreiber, the guidance counselor) and a member of the [REDACTED] and his parents toward the end of the 99-00 school year. At that time, the parents of the student communicated a suspicion of inappropriate relationship between Denise and the student on the basis of what they discovered on the student's cell phone. Denise was witnessed to be called into that meeting. There is no written documentation of the event.

The student in question was enrolled at ECC from [REDACTED]. His birthdate is [REDACTED]. He turned 18 on [REDACTED] of his senior year.

A detailed allegation was made directly by the student on an unsolicited basis to this writer several years after his graduation claiming that an inappropriate sexual relationship took place between the student and Ms. Myers during the student's senior year. The student maintained at that time that, while his parents wanted action taken against Ms. Myers, he did not want that to move forward in any way. He suggested that he was reluctant to proceed against her because [REDACTED], even against his parent's wishes.

On May 29, 2011 this writer was informed on an unsolicited basis by another alumnus that he also had an inappropriate sexual relationship with Ms. Myers during the [REDACTED] school year, although he made clear that he wanted no action taken on the matter because [REDACTED].

Other complaints were voiced to John Kowach regarding Ms. Myers propriety during her tenure; namely the manner of her dress and public perceptions related to her lifestyle. One example can be seen in a memo to John Kowach from Msgr. Kaza regarding a meeting Msgr. Kaza had with [REDACTED] about these concerns and others. This memo is in John Kowach's personnel file and dated October 1, 1999. Additionally, multiple observations by faculty during Ms. Myers' tenure substantiate a pattern of questionable behavior with students.

Denise Myers' personnel file has been viewed by Elk County District Attorney Bradley Kraus at his request.

John Kowach (Headmaster) was Denise Myers' primary supervisor during her entire tenure at Elk County Catholic High School. While no regular yearly evaluation appears in her file for the 99-00 school year, John Kowach included in her file an Internship Evaluation in support of her administrative degree for St. Bonaventure University. It is dated June 15, 2000, the month when her employment at ECC was concluded; an evaluation which he regards as "Outstanding", and in which he offers his "highest recommendation".

Our efforts to train our employees and volunteers about appropriate relationships with the minors in our care is not new and has taken place for decades. We condemn every instance of the sexual abuse of minors and encourage potential victims to seek the assistance of law enforcement.