



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Statement from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston regarding the proposed class action lawsuit related to Bishop England High School**

CHARLESTON, SC – The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston released the below statement related to the lawsuit filed today involving Bishop England High School. The statement should be attributed to Maria Aselage, spokesperson for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston.

The Catholic Diocese of Charleston received the lawsuit involving Bishop England High School this morning. After reviewing it, we feel that the class action claims have absolutely no merit.

The windows between the athletic coaches' offices and the boys' and girls' locker rooms were included in the plans and installed in the building in the 1990's for safety reasons. Their purpose was to allow coaches to monitor for fights, bullying, smoking or any type of inappropriate activity that might occur within the locker rooms. The plaintiff's claim that the windows were installed for the sole purpose of exploiting students is simply ludicrous.

When school officials learned about a member of its athletic staff videotaping boys in the locker room in May 2019, they immediately contacted police and terminated the employee. Soon afterward, the windows were covered and were subsequently removed and replaced with a block wall.

Contrary to the claims in the lawsuit, the Catholic Diocese of Charleston takes protection of children very seriously. It mandates that every teacher, other employee, and volunteer who has regular access to children undergo a background screening, attend a child abuse prevention education program, and sign a code of conduct governing their interactions with minors. Additionally, Catholic school teachers and staff are required to attend boundary training.

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