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Board confirms names of resigned EHS teachers

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Clockwise from left: Robert M. Batchelder Jr., Tod Grossmith and Mark Forbes.

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By Jennifer Keefe
 news@seacoastonline.com
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EXETER — The Cooperative School District has confirmed the resignations of Exeter High School social studies teachers Tod Grossmith and Mark Forbes in connection with a raunchy screenplay that is evidence in an ongoing sexual assault investigation.

Superintendent Michael Morgan announced the resignations during Tuesday's Cooperative School Board meeting.

Morgan placed Forbes and Grossmith on administrative leave in the beginning of June, but had not disclosed their names prior to announcing their resignations Tuesday.

A third social studies teacher, Robert Batchelder Jr., resigned on May 24. Batchelder was placed on leave in April after a complaint about a sexual assault against a female in 2009 was made to school officials and forwarded to police.

Morgan read the names during the nominations and resignations portion of the meeting. No other comments related to the resignations or the investigation were made by board members, and no members of the public mentioned the investigation during either of the two public comment portions of the meeting.

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attorneys.

While Batchelder is being investigated for the sexual assault allegations, Morgan said from the school's standpoint, Forbes and Grossmith are not implicated for anything other than penning the screenplay.

However, Morgan acknowledged the police are conducting their own investigation. No formal charges have been filed.

The screenplay, called "Graduation Crashers," names Batchelder, Forbes and Grossm as its authors and follows the three teachers, who go by their last names in the screenplay, and a fourth teacher, as they crash the graduation parties of students they hate.

Morgan said the screenplay was discovered by police as a result of the sexual assault investigation.

While the screenplay does not include any sexual exchanges between teachers and students, the teacher characters do engage in sexual encounters with students' parents and younger, college-aged women.

All three teachers were voted as student favorites in the superlatives section of the 2013 EHS yearbook. Batchelder was voted "most relatable to students," Grossmith was voted "most chill" and Forbes was voted "most entertaining."



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