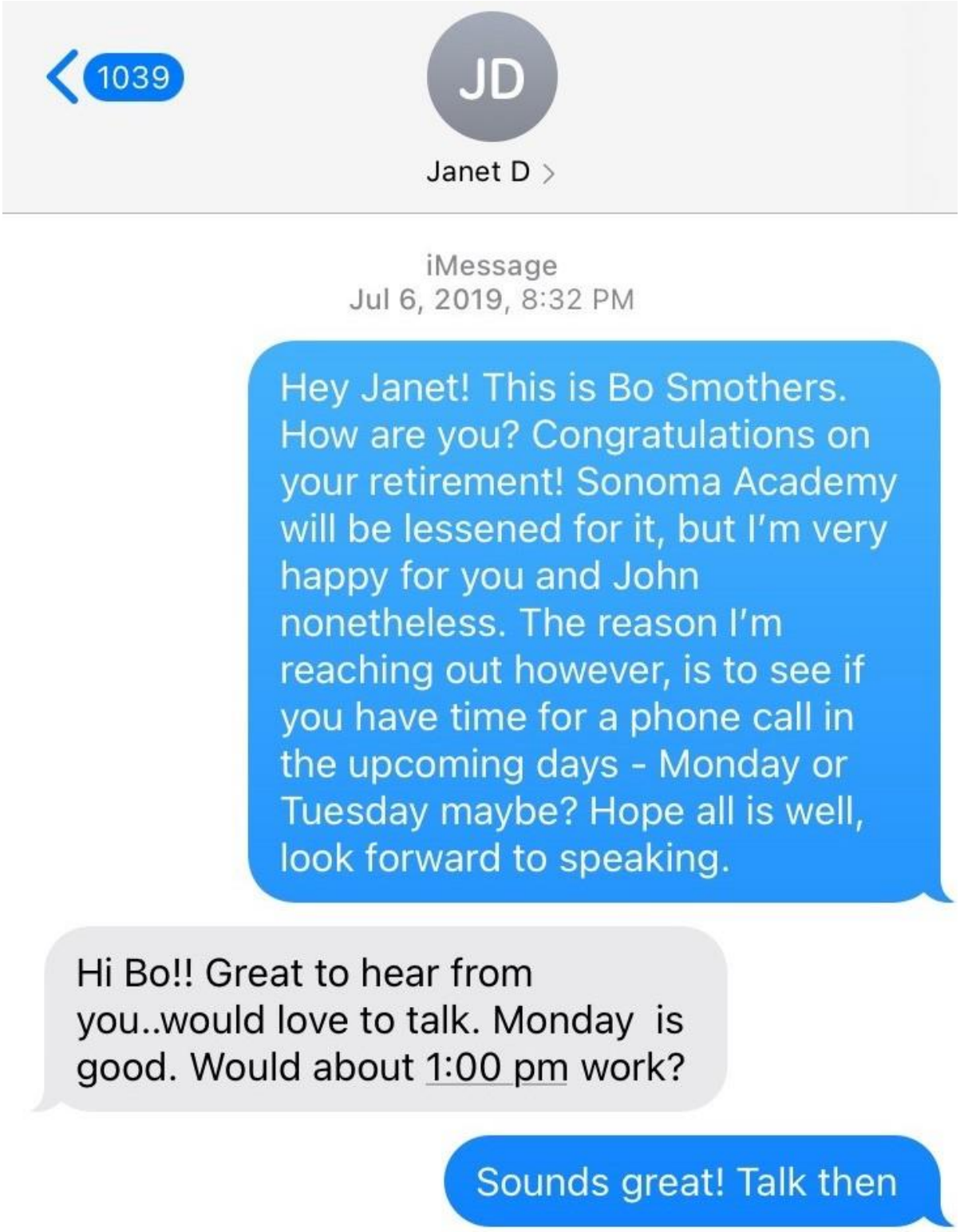
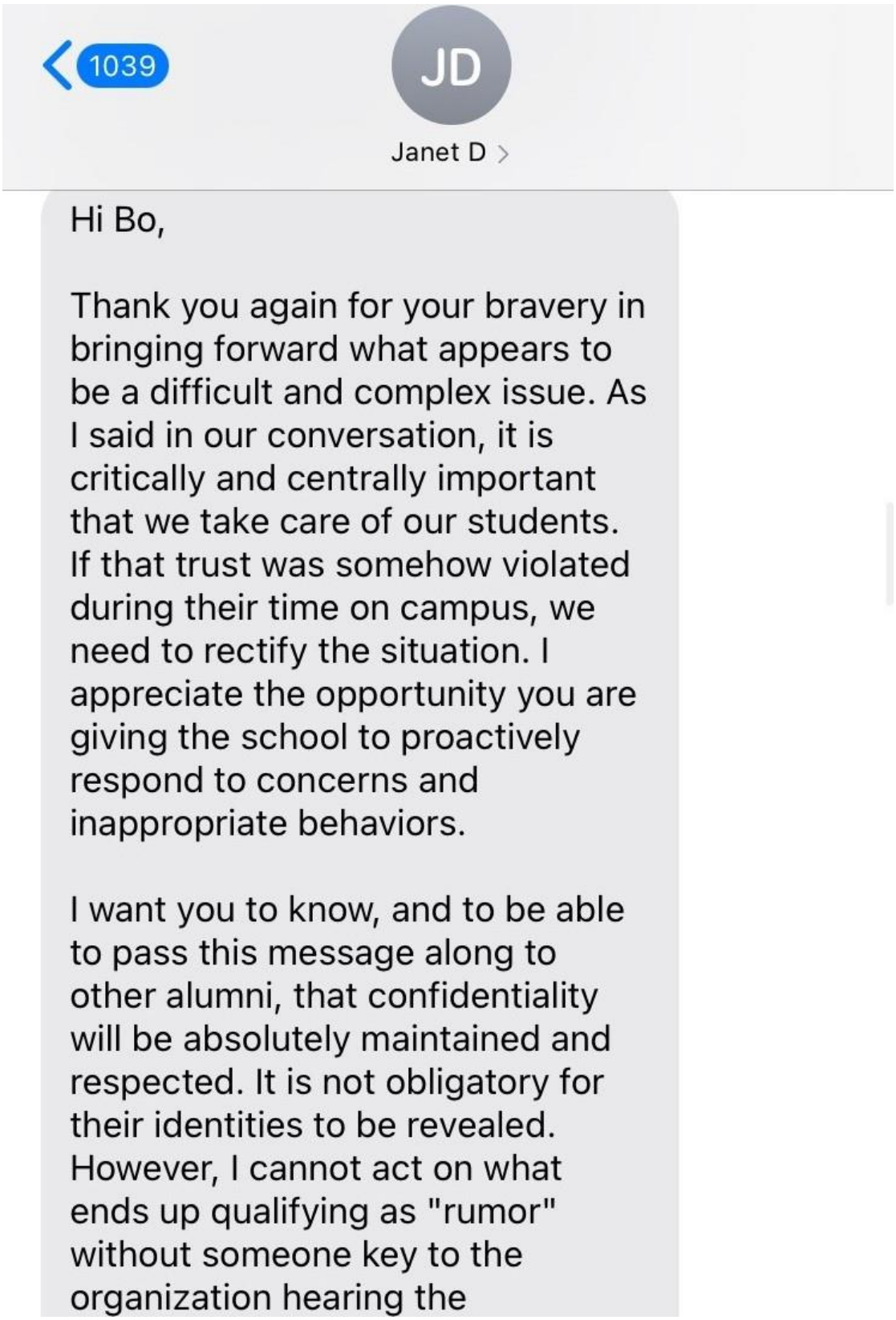


Bolyn Smothers texted Janet Durgin, then the head of school for Sonoma Academy, in July 2019, asking to talk. The two spoke by phone a few days later, Smothers said, and he told Durgin his concerns about longtime Sonoma Academy teacher Marco Morrone's inappropriate behavior with his female classmates. Smothers graduated from the school in 2011. (Bolyn Smothers)



1039

JD

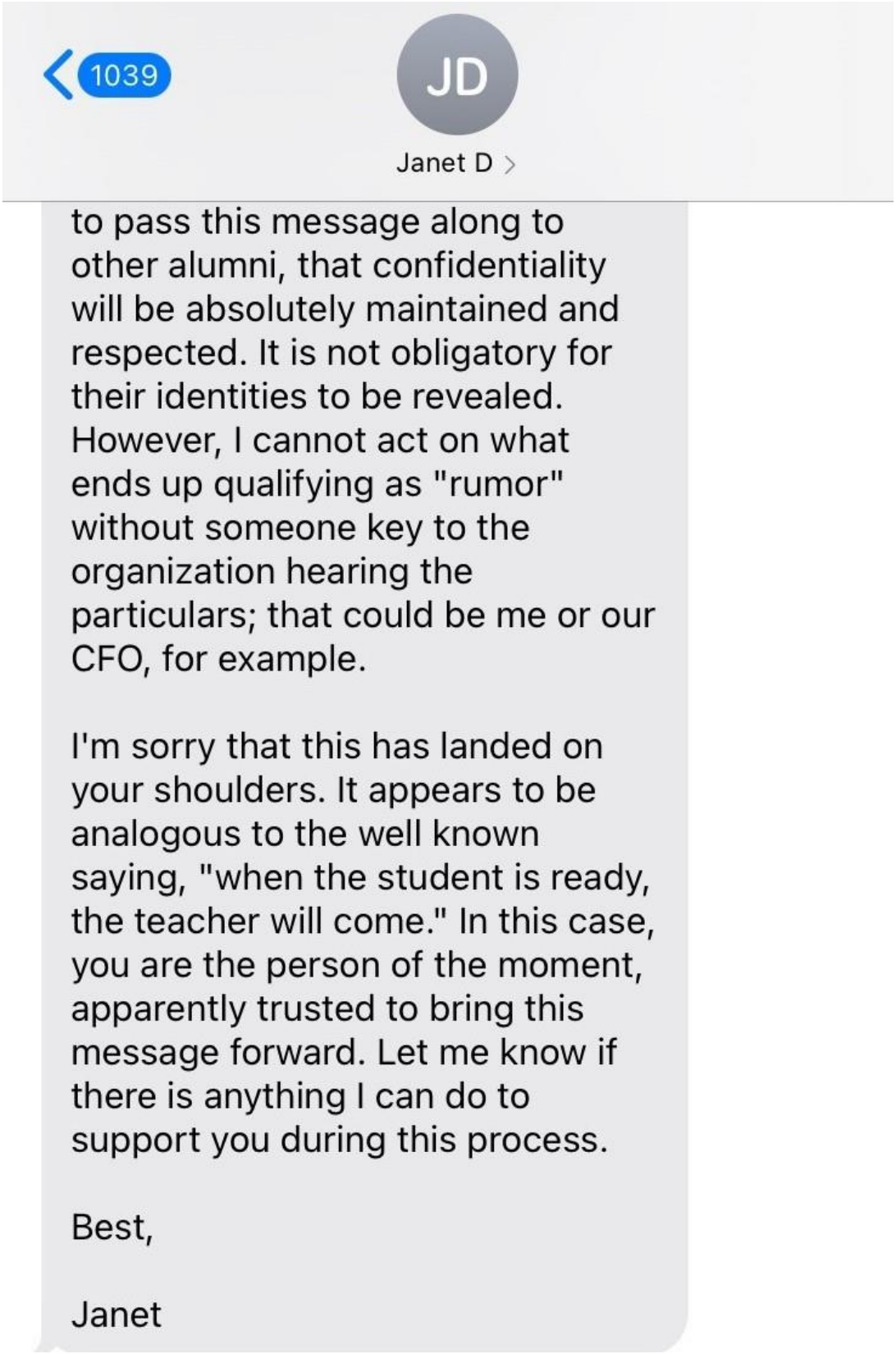
Janet D

Hi Bo,

Thank you again for your bravery in bringing forward what appears to be a difficult and complex issue. As I said in our conversation, it is critically and centrally important that we take care of our students. If that trust was somehow violated during their time on campus, we need to rectify the situation. I appreciate the opportunity you are giving the school to proactively respond to concerns and inappropriate behaviors.

I want you to know, and to be able to pass this message along to other alumni, that confidentiality will be absolutely maintained and respected. It is not obligatory for their identities to be revealed. However, I cannot act on what ends up qualifying as "rumor" without someone key to the organization hearing the

Text message correspondence on July 11, 2019 from Sonoma Academy Head of School Janet Durgin to Bo Smothers, a 2011 Sonoma Academy graduate. (Bo Smothers)



Text message correspondence on July 11, 2019 from Sonoma Academy Head of School Janet Durgin to Bo Smothers, a 2011 Sonoma Academy graduate. (Bo Smothers)

Durgin followed up with Smothers, asking to speak with other alumni he mentioned but did not name in their conversation. After telling Durgin that his classmates were hesitant to come forward, Durgin followed up, but Smothers eventually dropped off communication. (Bolyn Smothers)