In the lion’s mouth: The intersection of gender and purpose in a boys’ school

Janet Lien and Danielle Passno -- The Browning School
Before we begin...

Although aspects of this workshop will encourage women-identifying faculty to double down on their relationship with boys, especially when boys are expressing controversial or troubling opinions about gender, we hope it is clear that we do not believe that misogyny in the workplace is acceptable.

Rather, our intent in this workshop is to sink our teeth into what it means for a boys’ school to be a disruptor of cultural misogyny and, subsequently, why boys’ schools are important spaces for people of all gender identities to work in, especially women.
Turn & Talk

Share one anecdote where working in a boys’ school was a challenge because of your gender-identity.
When faced with certain realities in a boys’ school, women sometimes find themselves frustrated or in an uneasy relationship with their role in the context of boys’ school.

Feeling unseen by the boys and men at your school

Worrying that boys’ schools are incubators for misogyny
“I have a lot of complicated feelings about whether a school like Browning should exist.”

~ A woman-identifying faculty member

What might the experience be for someone working in a boys’ school with this question?

How would you respond if a colleague said this to you?
TAKEAWAYS

INSTITUTIONAL
● Be clear about why you’re a boys’ school
● Develop clear policies and protocols
● Consider onboarding and mentoring programs

INDIVIDUAL
● Make it an active choice
● Recognize that you may encounter challenging moments
● Use to fuel your purpose
If you don’t believe that a boys’ school can be a disruptor of misogyny, then it will be hard to be happy working in a boys’ school.
Personal mission as an educator

Work that feels meaningful and honors your dignity

The school's mission