

LEGAL NEWS

\$2M suit blames school for sexual abuse

BY STEVE LASH

Steve.Lash@TheDailyRecord.com

The parents of a Prince George's County elementary school student filed a \$2 million lawsuit Tuesday against the school board, claiming administrators at the **Robert Goddard Montessori School** ignored their complaints that their son was being sexually harassed by a male classmate.

The harassment began with sexually explicit comments in October 2008, when the boy was in fourth grade at the public school, and escalated over the next 20 months to include being forced to perform sexual acts on the tormentor in the school bathroom, according to the complaint filed in **Prince George's County Circuit Court**.

The boy, now 11, and his parents complained frequently to school administrators, who did nothing to protect the child — even when the father insisted they review tapes from security cameras the school kept in hallways and at bathroom entrances, the lawsuit claims.

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SHARON KREVROR-WEISBAUM

Brown, Goldstein & Levy LLP

chiatrist since July 2010 and has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the complaint.

His parents, identified in court papers as John and Jane Doe, withdrew him from the Seabrook school.

The parents seek \$1.5 million in compensatory damages and \$500,000 in punitive damages against the school board.

“It is like a parent's worst nightmare when you find out your child has been sexually abused in school,” said the parents' attorney,

Sharon Krevor-Weisbaum, of **Brown, Goldstein & Levy LLP** in Baltimore. “It could have been prevented if the parents had been listened to. They feel really, really let down by the school.”

Briant Coleman, a spokesman for the Prince George's County Board of Education, declined to answer questions regarding the lawsuit.

“We do not comment on ongoing litigation,” he said.

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