





Supplemental Governance Notice - Recent PLSAS Appeal and Records Conduct Involving Michael Thomas

1 message

 < > Fri, May 29, 2026 at 12:30 AM
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Cc: Michael Thomas <mthomas@plsas.org>

Dear Chair Andreson and Members of the Hopkins School Board,

I am sending this supplemental governance notice because Hopkins has already received notice that Michael Thomas is a named respondent in pending complaint and ethics materials, and additional records since that notice now bear directly on governance, compliance culture, and child-safety oversight.

The attached packet summarizes recent communications with Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools beginning with my renewed request to appeal the District's Title IX dismissal and continuing through the District's handling of related MGDPA/FERPA records requests. The core point is this: PLSAS denied the appeal as untimely, did not identify the actual written appeal-rights record supporting that position, tied its response posture to the fact that MDE and OCR complaints had been filed, and then did not provide clean request-by-request production, denial, nonexistent-data confirmation, or timelines after repeated records follow-ups.

The packet also includes Robert Cothorn's May 26 response asserting that all outstanding requests had been answered and framing the follow-up requests as unreasonable or burdensome. Michael Thomas was copied on that response. That response generated a formal record-correction request and a targeted data-request batch, both of which are identified in the exhibit list because they seek the maintained records that should confirm or contradict the District's finality, search, classification, and burden assertions.

This matters because the experience now spans two Title IX/data-response officials. Emily Herman's June 2025 response lane and Robert Cothorn's May 2026 response lane reflect the same response posture: broad finality assertions, incomplete request-by-request dispositions, and unresolved search/withholding/no-records issues. The one thing that has not changed in that record is the leadership structure: Michael Thomas remained the supervisory constant.

This is governance-relevant for Hopkins because Michael Thomas was copied on the appeal notice, records requests, follow-ups, and Rob Cothorn's May 26 finality/compliance response; PLSAS staff responded or auto-acknowledged under that leadership structure; the same response posture appears across more than one District official; and the unresolved records concern Title IX process, child safety, reentry/safety planning, Child Find, special education, Section 504, and disability-access issues.

I am not asking Hopkins to adjudicate the PLSAS dispute. I am asking Hopkins to preserve and review this information before relying on any assurance that these issues are isolated, resolved, or merely personal disagreement. The record reflects a compliance culture problem: when basic records are requested to test whether a child-safety and Title IX decision was lawful, the District does not answer the simple questions of what was reviewed, what exists, what will be produced, what is being withheld, and why.

Please confirm that this supplemental notice and packet have been received and will be provided to the full Board and any appropriate governance or legal review channel.

Respectfully,



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