

From: **Kelly Lichter** <[klichter@masonacademy.com](mailto:klichter@masonacademy.com)>

Date: Tue, Jun 18, 2019 at 9:19 PM

Subject: Correct the record

To: Phillip Kilgore <[pkilgore@hillsdale.edu](mailto:pkilgore@hillsdale.edu)>

Phil,

It has been brought to my attention that Hillsdale is sending an email to MCA parents stating, "The College provided the MCA President in December 2018 with written communications on the severity of the issues and recommendations for changes to bring about good governance measures." The letter later stated, "Unfortunately, however, the College heard little in reply and has no indication that any of its recommendations were taken up."

I set up a phone call with you on December 19, 2018 to discuss the list Mr. Harner sent me. I expressed a couple of concerns. My first concern was that Mr. Harner did not know our school nor had he done much in terms of looking at our policies, because some of the items he recommended were already in place. Second, I expressed concerns that his list reflected allegations made by Joe Baird against the school.

During our phone call, we went through the entire list and discussed every item. I asked some questions and sought clarification. I also informed you that MCA has required governance training with the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools, a social media policy, a board code of conduct, board conflict of interest statements and policy and an amended grievance procedure that was changed due to recommendations from Hillsdale training. I also informed you that we were engaging an outside CPA firm to address Baird's allegations regarding financial mismanagement. Lastly, I explained that our charter attorney provides the board guidance on Sunshine Law and public records laws. Your recommendations did not address our biggest concern...how do we handle the angry mob of parents?

My memory of our conversation that day was productive, candid and thoughtful. Our board had been expressing concerns (for years) about the small angry mob of parents that used CCPS, Naples News and Hillsdale as a weapon, and we repeatedly asked Hillsdale for guidance. We received very little in help and support on this issue.

Here are some questions I am hoping you can answer:

1. Why did Hillsdale decide to send the letters to Jon Fishbane when this was clearly an MCA/Hillsdale matter?
2. Are you concerned that the evidence clearly shows that Fishbane leaked these letters to the public before we even had an opportunity to talk and discuss?
3. Is Hillsdale dictating who sits on BCSI affiliated school boards or is this unique to MCA?
4. What is the rationale for removing David Bolduc from the MCA Board?
5. Since you recommended we not add any more parents to our board, then why didn't you send me some recommendations of potential non-parent board members like you said you would?

6. Has Hillsdale conducted its own investigation into the allegations made by Jon Fishbane?
7. Do you think it is proper for Hillsdale to leverage parents from MCA to put pressure on the board and leadership to resign?
8. Who do you have in mind to replace the MCA Board and Principal? Would the Optima Foundation be assisting Hillsdale with the school's takeover?
9. Do you believe in due process?

I received a text message from a mom today. She has been part of our school community since year one. Here is what she said, "Stay strong Kelly! There are so many emotions involved in this situation, but when you break it all down, it is very clear that the mob is fully responsible for this mess and always have been from the beginning. Praying for you as you battle these monsters."

She is absolutely right. They have now created their own Facebook group led by Joe Baird and others. They are inundating staff with records requests. They are spreading lies and misinformation, and they are actively destroying people's lives and reputations. It is no wonder why Mr. Hull resigned, and I can't imagine any person wanting this job. These people love mayhem and chaos. These are the people you partnered with in the end. Too bad you didn't partner with the hundreds of incredible families that attend MCA and love their school.

If Hillsdale wanted to part ways, they could have just given 60 day notice. Unfortunately, Hillsdale's actions have caused significant damage to the school and to the families involved. We are concerned about our safety. The angry mob is going after the families of the school's leadership with the hope of destroying their careers and reputations. Like I said to you before, none of this is worth destroying people's personal lives.

If Hillsdale would still like to part ways with Mason Classical Academy, then they need to send a termination letter. I do not need to have our attorney send that letter reminding you once again of the terms of our contract. The June 6th letter was not a 60 day notice letter.

Phil-I considered you a good man, mentor and friend. I have always loved and respected you and Hillsdale. I dreamed that my children would graduate from Hillsdale someday. Hopefully when the dust settles there will be more clarity on both sides. I wish you all the best!

Regards,  
**Kelly Lichter**, President  
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