



June 11, 2019

Mr. Chris VanOrman
Hillsdale College
33 E College St.
Hillsdale, MI 49242

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr. VanOrman,

We are in receipt of your recent correspondence regarding the Collier County Public School board's attorney's report dated June 3, 2019. The Mason Classical Academy governing board, at a publicly noticed special meeting, met to discuss its preliminary impressions of the report. The governing board is disturbed and astounded by Mr. Fishbane's allegations and takes them very seriously. We will meet again shortly to hire independent counsel to *pursue truth* by conducting a thorough, impartial and unbiased investigation into the allegations. As the report took nearly a year to complete and is more than 60 pages long, we anticipate it will take some time to complete a proper investigation where all parties who were subject to the investigation have an opportunity to present their versions of the events. Therefore, the time frame provided in your letter of June 30 may not be realistic considering the report's length and subject matter.

The governing board values greatly the relationship with Hillsdale College and the support it provides to the academy. We are, however, concerned that the college elected to agree with the findings of such a politically motivated investigation that failed to provide any due process to the report's accused. We wish to continue working with Hillsdale and note that our agreement calls for 60 days' notice to terminate the relationship. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter further. Please let me know when a convenient time is to do so.

Regards,

Kelly Lichter
Founding Board Chair and President
Mason Classical Academy