

May 15, 2009

Commissioner of Administration
c/o Information Policy Analysis Division (IPAD)
201 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155

To Whom It May Concern:

I am contacting you at the recommendation of Kathryn Olson at the MN Department of Education, and after a telephone conversation with Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske on May 14, 2009. I am trying to pursue the matter described in the enclosed documentation, regarding what I take to be a major and egregious violation of data privacy laws, specifically Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13. I am asking for an **advisory opinion** as to whether the following practices of the Northfield High School violate this law.

- The preparation and distribution of a handout displaying the names and AP scores of 53 former students (copy enclosed)
- The listing, after each classroom test prepared and graded by the teacher, of the names and scores of each student receiving a grade of A or B. (emails describing this procedure enclosed)

I won't repeat the facts of the matter that are described in the April 21 letter to the Family Policy Compliance Office. Suffice it to say, I have tried hard, repeatedly, and in good faith to sort this out with relevant administrators in the Northfield School district, specifically principal Joel Leer and superintendent L. Chris Richardson. It took several attempts with the principal to get this teacher to stop this practice for this year, and I remain unconvinced (based on a long-term pattern of behavior of this principal and this superintendent on other issues, with both myself and other families) that the practice will be stopped once and for all **in future years and/or with other teachers**. I seek an advisory opinion to, I hope, have an appropriate government agency take note and issue a public opinion. My hope and objective is that this opinion would carry much greater weight than have my attempts so far.

As I state in the April 21 letter, I have no interest in a lawsuit. I just want this practice stopped—not just for this year and this teacher, but in all similar instances that I believe will happen in the future without your help.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Galotti

Enclosures:

- Copy of letter of 4/21/09 to MN Dept of Ed and to Family Compliance Office, outlining my complaint
- Copy of handout showing AP scores
- Copy of district's "Notice of Designation of Directory Information", downloaded from their website at www.nfld.k12.mn.us/schoolboard/policies/515boardpolicy.pdf (accessed 5/15/09)
- Copy of email correspondence between myself and the principal and superintendant