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**Akron Education  
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# Press Release

**Monday, December 9, 2024**

## **Akron Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Robinson Faces Serious Allegations of Public Records Mismanagement, Fiscal Irresponsibility, and Legal Obstruction**

**Akron, OH, December 9, 2024:** Patricia Shipe, President of the Akron Education Association (AEA) representing licensed and certificated employees of Akron Public Schools, has released the following statement:

The Akron Education Association (AEA) condemns the continued misconduct of Superintendent Dr. Michael Robinson, whose actions have not only undermined transparency and fiscal responsibility but have now compelled the AEA to initiate further legal action against the Akron School Board.

We believe Dr. Robinson's admitted tampering with public email records—sending emails that disappear under his control in an attempt to manage "sensitive" topics—is a clear violation of Ohio public records laws. His subsequent denial of AEA's public records request, citing "attorney/client privilege," is both baseless and deceptive. These actions demonstrate a blatant disregard for the law and the public's right to transparency.

Despite the Akron community's unwavering support for public education through the recent passage of the APS Levy request, Dr. Robinson's administration has misused public funds by escalating legal disputes instead of resolving them. This year, the Association has filed nearly twenty grievances, four Unfair Labor Practices, and a lawsuit against the superintendent for his

**For Immediate Release**

repeated violations of the Board's Collective Bargaining Agreement with AEA. The administration's refusal to address or even review these most basic contractual issues has forced the union to take costly legal action, diverting taxpayer dollars away from classrooms and into unnecessary litigation.

Now, in addition to these pending grievances and legal actions, AEA is compelled to move forward with a new lawsuit against the Akron School Board. This action arises from the Board's continued refusal to honor legitimate public records requests, and instead impeding, blocking, and denying these legal filings. Such obstruction not only violates public records laws but also further erodes trust in district leadership.

The Akron community entrusted its hard-earned tax dollars to the Akron School Board to manage responsibly, yet the superintendent and the Board have allowed these funds to be squandered on avoidable legal battles. This shameful disregard for fiduciary responsibility, combined with ongoing efforts to block transparency, harms students, educators, and taxpayers alike and further diverts much needed resources away from our classrooms.

The AEA demands immediate accountability from the Akron School Board and urges the community to join in calling for leadership that respects its legal obligations, upholds transparency, and prioritizes the needs of Akron's students.