

Good morning Dave,

As I mentioned in a previous email last night, yesterday was our proofing/print day so I was unable to get back to you. Sorry to be unresponsive but we needed to check and double-check our information before printing it. We apologize for not letting you know when the full version was posted. **Please see the updated story below. We can send you a physical copy of the paper too, just please provide your address.**

I have retracted our generalization of your allegations and have changed the story online. I apologize for that — we had no idea that you were in a bunk bed. It was not in a direct quote; we were paraphrasing. **I have added back our original abuse description to the story.**

I fully understand the importance of this article, as I have been working very hard to get all the facts straight and talk with who I need to. I thank you for your patience with the story development and hope to continue to connect on leads.

[Two accuse ex-Glencoe teacher of molestation](#)

The crusade of an alleged abuse victim made its way to a public forum Thursday night, July 27, when Glencoe Public Schools District 35 addressed allegations of sexual abuse against a former teacher who taught elementary and middle school for 40 years.

Former Glencoe resident Dave Stroud, 55, of Colorado, caused a stir this summer when he posted to social media details of the alleged abuse by Marvin Martin, who taught for D35 from 1956–1996.

The D35 School Board released a statement at its July 27 meeting through Board President Gary Ruben, who said the district is reviewing records in an effort to gather more information. The School Board urged any alleged victims to come forward to the Glencoe Public Safety Department.

There have been at least three complaints made against Marvin to Glencoe police, according to The Anchor sources — Stroud said he's told his story to Glencoe police three times: in 2012, 2014 and earlier this year; concerned resident Annie Solberg-Sarnblad discussed her knowledge of a separate alleged incident with a detective in mid-July; and another alleged victim, who wishes to remain anonymous, said he told his story to police last week.

The Glencoe Public Safety Department denied The Anchor's public-records request on Friday, July 28, reasoning the disclosure of the reports is prohibited by the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act and the Illinois Privacy of Child Victims of Criminal Sexual Offenses Act. A

FOIA request to District 35, which requested more time, has not yet been returned.

The Anchor contacted Martin via telephone at his home in Kenosha, Wis. Martin, 82, said he was aware of Stroud's allegations, but said he had "absolutely no memory of [Stroud]."

"I don't remember having any contact with him at all," Martin said. "I don't remember, and I certainly didn't do anything he said I did."

"I just don't know why anyone would want to destroy my reputation and ruin my life."

When asked if he had sexual contact with any of his students throughout his four decades of education, Martin responded, "of course not."

Former Glencoe D35 administrator Nelson Armour, who was vice principal and principal at Central School during the 1980s, said he does not recall any abuse allegations against Martin during his time with D35.

The Teacher

Martin came to Glencoe as a student teacher from Northwestern University in 1956. The next year, Martin became a sixth-grade teacher at Central School. He left the district briefly for the National Guard for six years before returning as a sixth-grade teacher. In 1984, Martin moved to the upper school to teach language arts to seventh- and eighth-graders.

As a teacher in Glencoe, Martin was known for taking education out of the classroom, leading trips with students to places like New York City. He even authored a book, called "The Great Harvest: Remembering A Teaching Career of 40 Years," emphasizing the trips.

For eight years after he retired from D35, Martin volunteered with schools in Kenosha, working with "gifted second-graders to learning-disabled adults."

Martin has been retired for 20 years and said he has not been in recent contact with D35.

The Allegations

The resurgent conversation about Martin began after Stroud shared his story in a Facebook post, detailing the alleged abuse by Martin, while encouraging other victims to disclose their stories.

In an interview with The Anchor, Stroud recounted the alleged abuse, saying he was molested by Martin as a fourth-grader in the early 1970s. Stroud, who was not a student of Martin's, reported that Martin babysat him and his brothers while the family's parents were out of town.

“[He] took us out for ice cream and when we got home, this one evening in particular, I went to bed and he came into my room and molested me,” Stroud said.

In Stroud’s Facebook post, he details: “I remember quite vividly: his heavy breathing and the moist sensation as he went up and down on my p****. Back then, I innocently thought that he was wetting his fingers and touching me, but now I have another idea about what he was doing.” “I pretended to be asleep,” Stroud told The Anchor. “Maybe in the beginning because I was supposed to be asleep, but when he started touching me, I just shut down and squeezed my eyes shut and waited for it to be over.”

Stroud said he did tell a few people, including family members, at that time but there was no investigation, and he tried to forget about it. After that, Stroud kept his story mostly quiet until 2012, after the trial of infamous child molester Jerry Sandusky, of Penn State University. In its wake, Stroud said his emotions were stirred. He took to social media with a new mission to out his alleged attacker.

Stroud said he officially filed an in-person statement with the Glencoe Public Safety Department in 2012 and was told by police, he said, they were limited, because of Illinois’ statute of limitations policy, unless more recent victims came forward.

Another alleged victim of Martin’s, who we’ll call John (not his real name), said he was inappropriately touched by Martin during a trip to New York City.

According to John, who went to Glencoe schools in the late ’70s through early ’80s, there were about a dozen students on the trip, many of whom stayed in one room, while the remaining stayed with Martin in the adjoining room.

Late in the evening, John said, Martin was upset with some of the noise from the students and singled out John to come to his room.

“Next thing I know he’s got me in bed with him,” he said. “At the time, I’m thinking, ‘OK, this is a reprimand’ ... but then [Martin] starts basically touching me. ... At this point, he’s not touching in my private area, but my back and this and that and the other.”

John said he tried to move closer to the wall, but Martin persisted touching him. At that point, John said he moved to the floor of the room, in which he believes other boys were sleeping.

“The next day, of course he acted like everything was normal and I was a combination of freaked out, bewildered and really, really [expletive] angry,” he said. “I didn’t (tell anybody) probably for the same reasons a

lot of people that age don't — combination of embarrassed or don't know what to do or just pretending it didn't happen."

As the allegations against Martin again surfaced this summer, the man said he felt a "moral obligation" to say something.

Annie Solberg-Sarnblad, another product of the Glencoe Public Schools and former student of Martin's, was in a similar situation. She could no longer hold her tongue about a story a classmate of hers told her about Martin.

She contacted the Glencoe Public Safety Department via telephone and email with the information.

The School Board Meeting

In response to a social media post detailing his alleged abuse, Stroud gained plenty of support. He used the forum to urge community members to come before the Glencoe D35 Board of Education Thursday, July 27.

At the meeting, School Board President Gary Ruben began by reading a statement aloud: "On July 17, 2017, District 35 was contacted by an adult, former student of Glencoe Schools [Stroud] in regard to allegations the student has made toward a teacher who retired from the Glencoe Schools in 1996. We are aware that this information is circulating through the community and we wanted to be sure you learned of this matter directly from the Glencoe Schools," it read in part.

"The Glencoe Schools were previously made aware of these allegations in relation to a 2012 investigation by Glencoe Public Safety. The Glencoe Schools cooperated with all requests from Glencoe Public Safety, and the case was closed," Ruben continued.

When asked if the case has been reopened, Ruben said "to our knowledge right now, we are not aware of an ongoing public safety investigation."

Glencoe police denied to comment.

School officials, however, are "reviewing district records for evidence in support of these allegations," Ruben said. If any evidence should be discovered, D35 officials said they will report it to Glencoe police and work with them in any potential investigation.

Speaking during public comments was Glencoe resident Kate Elisco, who attended Glencoe schools through eighth grade in 1996. She moved back to Glencoe after college in New York and, with her husband, is raising two young boys. Elisco questioned the School Board on the possibility of an investigation.

“Do you think if more victims came forward, it would help as evidence that [Marvin Martin] did this?” she asked. “Is it a matter of more people coming out? What could it be that can convince you that these victims are not making this up?”

Ruben and Superintendent Catherine Wang both urged other victims to come forward to help substantiate the official claims made by Stroud, but they did not comment on whether more accounts would ignite an investigation.

Wang did confirm that Martin has a state pension, but he has no current distinctions, like plaques or scholarships, within the district.

Glencoe resident Dan Stucka and his wife, Norene, a former School Board member, also spoke during public comment and were concerned by the recent news. The couple has three sons, now all adults, who attended the Glencoe Public Schools and all had Martin as a teacher, respectively between 1970–1990.

The family’s close relationship with Martin has continued throughout the years. The Stuckas recently visited Martin, whose health is declining, they said.

“We worked very hard to manage [having Martin as a teacher],” Dan Stucka recalled. “He was always in great demand. His classes were the absolute pinnacle of preparedness. ... This is a very serious allegation. I want the truth.”

The Stuckas asked anyone with any personal, firsthand knowledge of abuse to come forward.