

Good evening. My name is David Stroud.

I was educated in the District 35 school system during the 1960's -'70s. I'm happy to say that I'm enjoying the benefits of an elite pre-education that I truly believe was paramount in preparing me for the challenges of life.

I am here tonight, however, in the solemn role of being the first abuse victim of Marvin Martin to come forward in the public forum. The most painful part of this awkward task is that I know that there are 6+ victims including myself (while statistically speaking, the total count is likely to be over 100). Sadly, we'll never know the full extent of the damage he has done.

#1: Marvin Martin is a serial predator who built his position of authority and reverence in order to take advantage of Glencoe's most vulnerable citizens in the most horrific manner. I know of the barriers that stand in the way of a small child's capacity to stand up and be heard under these circumstances.

Martin was an island. In this community, he was beyond reproach. But not anymore.

Not on my watch!

#2: He Was Cunning, but he didn't have all the bases covered: I've learned of several families of which whose parents requested that their children NOT be placed in his class.

George Kaiser, the former school psychologist, also knew that there was something wrong about Martin. When confronted by my mother in an informal setting regarding her concerns, Kaiser volunteered the question of whether her unease about Martin was sexual... Why did he say that?

#3: The System is Stacked Against Victims of Child Sexual Assault: We are a group presented with a path that questions our very worth, rather than a path toward dignity & healing.

Just last week, a Glencoe resident, Norene Stucka, the former psychologist and D35 board member whom I've never met, took it upon herself to go on record in the Glencoe Anchor and share her discrediting opinion of me.

#4: Chances Are That Martin's Victims Are Not Okay: Victims of sexual abuse are impacted for life. A disproportionate number of us are alcoholics and drug addicts and

over eaters, and have trouble maintaining relationships, and trouble keeping jobs, etc. They have never been the same since encountering the wrath of their abusers.

The recent bill signed by Governor Bruce Rauner eliminating the Statute of Limitations for child sexual abuse from here on-forward, is a good start. But it's not enough! It's time for society to listen to all sexual assault survivors, no matter how long ago their ordeal... rather than stifling them with rules or beating them down with insults.

#5: The thought that other victims won't come forward is daunting, but I'm right here. I will not stand down. Giving in to the challenge before me is not an option. But, I can't climb this mountain alone, so I'm reaching out to former students, former board members, teachers and colleagues: Mrs. Kris Grant, Mrs. Beverley Kasper, Tom Amos, Dr. Nelson Armour, Mrs. Baxter... "No matter how long ago the information you harbor, you can come forward and tell what you know. Time doesn't figure into this equation because it's never too late to do the right thing."

To the Illinois District 35 School Board:

District 35 released a "Community Letter" this summer stating that, they "wanted to be sure Glencoeans learned of this matter directly from the Glencoe Schools."

Well, this board had that opportunity after I first filed my police report in 2012. I called your office too, in hopes to find allies in your ranks. I expected you to be aghast and eager to help me gather information. Instead, my messages went to voicemail and nobody returned my calls. And then you waited five years to respond, you waited until after I posted a Facebook "Note" and the story was about hit the pages of the Glencoe Anchor.

The vanilla email that I finally did receive promised nothing of us working together, but only that there were plans to contact Glencoe Public Safety and cooperate with an investigation if one is "warranted."

I think an investigation IS warranted. But (citing State Statute of Limitations laws), Glencoe Police aren't going to open the case. At the 7/27 board meeting, you said again and again that "we are on the same side...we both want the same thing...the truth. You said you're in search of the truth, just like the rest of us." So what is D35's plan?... To my sensibility, doing nothing is the same thinking that allows men like Marvin Martin to thrive in the system in the first place. Albert Einstein said, "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

I believe that you're good people.

It saddens me to think of you sitting around this very table in pop-up, closed meetings, listening to the advice of lawyers over of that of your collective good conscience.

I'm baffled that D35 has chosen to remain silent about the past.

But I know that, as individuals, you believe in your hearts that I'm telling the truth about Martin. I know that you feel responsibility to research and explore the depths of the archives of your predecessors and disclose the truth of those findings.

You know: That simply saying that you're cooperating with law enforcement is not enough. They're not doing anything. You don't have to wait for police to decide that "further investigation is warranted" because an investigation IS warranted.

One by Moral Measure. There is no Statute of Limitations preventing you from taking action starting right here; right now, today.

There is information in the archives of those who held office before yourselves: The late Dr. George Kaiser knew. Surely his records exist somewhere.

I Thought you might begin looking at the years of:

1970-'71 - I was molested in my home by Marvin Martin.

I have reason to believe that a particular boy in Martin's class was molested as well.

1976-'77 - "John Doe" is known to have escaped being molested. I know one person (his friend) who told me so.

1977-'78 - At least three boys are known to have been molested this year. I know three people (their friends) who have told me so.

1982-'83 - One boy is known to have been molested. I know one person (his friend) who told me so.

1983-'84 - Was the year of the events that led to the D.C. trip being cancelled. There must be information in the archives explaining the details of that weighty decision.

1988-'89 - Martin chose not to include this year's class pictures on MarvinMartin.org.

1990-'91 - The year of the "Anger incident."

1995-'96 - One Highly Ranked Official of the Village of Glencoe says that the year of Martin's resignation was another year of "incident." This year's class is also not included on MarvinMartin.org

August 17, 2017 - The Glencoe Anchor shared a file including some of Martin's personal writings that he sent to unknown colleagues of 1983, which was inspired, he wrote, from the time he spent at the Taylor Children's Home in Kenosha, Wis.

"Within the manuscript, Martin wrote about the children of the home, including his recounts of toweling off adolescent boys, of knowing when the boys masturbated, and of a graphic sex education lessons he gave them."

Is this of any concern to the board?

Your course of action today indicates where your priorities lie. You are what you do, ladies and gentlemen, not what you say. I remain hopeful that you will come to choose the path of support for your former students, just as you would for those current and for those in the future.

I thank you for your time.

