

Statement to Glencoe School Board Regarding Marvin Martin September 7, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement on behalf of many of the concerned citizens of Glencoe.

At the Board meeting on July 27, 2017, Board of Education members repeatedly asserted the Board is in search of the truth along with Dave Stroud and members of the Glencoe community regarding the actions of Mr. M. Martin, employee of the school district from 1956-1996. The growing list of volunteers, witnesses and victims shares your concern and desire for a better understanding.

The goals are to seek the truth and to protect future generations of school children from exploitation and abuse. As the saying goes, "He who forgets the past is doomed to repeat it".

To reach these goals, we are asking the Board to:

1. Begin an internal investigation (appointing an independent counsel if necessary) sharing all results with the GPD. There are many successful recent examples of this with schools such as Pingry.
2. Specifically address the 1991 incident referred to in a letter from Dr. Armour to Mr. Marvin Martin regarding Mr. Martin's "inappropriate anger behavior displayed with a student.
3. Specifically address the incident that occurred with Martin in approximately 1984 that led to the Washington DC trip being cancelled.
4. Specifically address the 1995-96 incidents which led to Mr. Martin's sabbatical/resignation.
5. Actively facilitate contact/communication with former staff/alumni/Board members from years 1956-1996.
6. Establish teacher training program aimed at preventing future abuse and exploitation of children.

We ask you to honor and fulfill your statements made on July 27, 2017 as the representatives of the current Glencoe School Board. We ask you to uphold the moral obligation to the people of Glencoe to be truthful about shortcomings in the school's history. We ask you to take actionable steps to ensure the protection of our children.

We ask you to be courageous and through public acknowledgement, apology, and support of the victims to facilitate the healing process.

Please remember, by remaining silent, by refusing to investigate or by avoiding making a public statement, pedophiles and abusers feel free to commit crimes against helpless victims.

Also, by remaining silent, victims are less likely to come forward and get the help they need to heal. Victims are left in the shadows because they feel no one believes them, no one will listen.

We point to the recent letter to the editor in the Glencoe Anchor by former school board member Norene Stucka as an example of how not to respond to a survivor coming forward. Impugning Dave's character, questioning his motives and commenting on his career is not the progressive response that victims are entitled to.

It takes a compassionate, thoughtful, courageous community to bring the victims into the healing light rather than to leave them to suffer in the shadows of shame and blame.

Join in with your support and cooperation to promote justice and healing.

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