



Statement from Board President Bill Carpenter on the Office of Civil Rights Complaint

At the September 17 Board meeting, I informed the Board and community that we had received word from our legal counsel that the Office of Civil Rights had dismissed the OCR complaint filed against District 86. For those of you who haven't followed this ridiculousness as closely as we have, this was the complaint that Zach Mottl said he was going to file, alleging that District 86 discriminated by the way its attendance boundaries were drawn. Articles appeared in the media about the complaint and he was quoted in those articles as if he was stating fact. We knew he was not stating any facts and so does the Office of Civil Rights.

Our legal counsel sent the Office of Civil Rights a FOIA request for the letter that they sent informing Zach Mottl that his claim against District 86 had been dismissed. We received our response to that FOIA September 19. The date on the letter from the Office of Civil Rights to Zach Mottl is August 24. August 24. Ask yourselves why Zach Mottl and his supposed committee never came forward to report that their claim was rejected. Could it be that he wanted to continue this false narrative against his alma mater and District 86?

The letter clearly states that the Office of Civil Rights rejected the complaint filed June 1 by Zach Mottl, and explains why there was no violation of discrimination laws. Because Zach Mottl and the Village of Burr Ridge boasted about their discrimination complaint, I need to highlight the main points from the letter the Office of Civil Rights sent rejecting his claim.

We said from the beginning this was nonsense. We knew as soon as they started with their false accusations that their complaint was meritless because it was not based on fact. It just took some time for the Office of Civil Rights to say what we already knew. Zach Mottl's complaint against District 86 was nonsense.

1. The first complaint Zach Mottl filed apparently wasn't very good because the Office of Civil Rights had to ask him for more information, which he provided July 27. Clearly it didn't help.
2. Zach Mottl alleged that expansion of the Buffer Zone in 2016 was the cause of the decline in enrollment at Hinsdale South and that in turn caused White students to migrate to Central. The Office of Civil Rights said the information he provided did not support that claim, nor did publicly available information. All you had to do, Zach, is read the report the Board saw on April 23, which clearly states that enrollment shifts at Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central had nothing to do with the Buffer Zone.
3. Zach Mottl suggested that District 86 send 98 White students to Hinsdale South but rather than just say bus White students to South, he devised a new attendance area based on proximity. It's okay if you take our idea Zach, but unlike you, our line was not based on race. His proximity line was just a gimmick because he only wants to bus White students to South. And I know it was just a gimmick because the Office of Civil Rights pointed out the obvious, that there are also non-white students impacted by your idea, and that your idea would actually decrease the percentage of white students at South.
4. Zach Mottl said the 2015 Board's decision to add a neighborhood to the Buffer Zone in 2016 was something other than what that Board said it was. In the complaint, you claimed that no students from the Central attendance area attend South, but the Office of Civil Rights said that was wrong, Zach. Wrong on the facts.
5. Zach Mottl alleged that District 86 is discriminating in how it allocates educational resources and denies equal access to educational opportunities to Black and Hispanic students at Hinsdale South. The problem is that Hinsdale South is not disproportionately Black and Hispanic as Zach goes around saying and so it is not even an issue.

This is still an issue for me. It sounds terrible, doesn't it, Zach Mottl saying District 86 discriminates in allocating educational resources and denies equal access to Black and Hispanic students? And it would be if it were true. I know the Hinsdale South Science Department has been eager to demolish those parts of Zach Mottl's complaint that the Office of Civil Rights didn't need to address, so for tonight I have invited the Hinsdale South Science Department to present tonight and I have also asked for a report on the spending at each school. Zach Mottl made up facts to attack Hinsdale South and District 86, and we need to set the record straight with **the** facts. Dr. Law, please introduce the people here tonight once I have finished. I'm not done yet.

Like the complaint Zach Mottl filed recently with the IL Attorney General's office, the complaint filed with the Office of Civil Rights shows that Zach Mottl just wants to hurt the District. He does not care about the District's students, and he does not care about whether he wastes taxpayers' money. And just like the complaint filed with the IL Attorney General's office, the complaint he filed with the Office of Civil Rights was rejected because he was wrong on the facts. Zach, you can do everything you can to hurt our schools and use all the made up facts you can invent, but the IL Attorney General and Office of Civil Rights aren't buying it, and neither does the District 86 community. 0-2 on your complaints because you are 0-2 on your facts.

Zach, you came to a meeting of this Board along with elected officials from the Village of Burr Ridge and asked us some questions. Now I have some questions for you.

1. Why do you want to hurt Hinsdale South and District 86?
2. After you made so much fuss about your complaint, why did you not let anyone know the Office of Civil Rights rejected it? If you are all for transparency, why isn't this document on the Village of Burr Ridge's website? You could just link to ours, because it will definitely be on our website.
3. Since you have such a difficult, difficult time with the facts, why don't you reach out to District 86 when you have a question? I know it's easier to make things up, but with just a little effort you could at least get your facts straight.

We have Audience Communication at the beginning and end of every meeting, and I look forward to seeing you in the future at a District 86 Board meeting.

For my part, I am proud to stand side by side with the students, our teachers and the vast majority of taxpayers of District 86 who want to see our schools succeed and who understand that strong, successful schools are something the community should cherish and celebrate, not attack using fake facts.