

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

District 86 did not create \$67.9 million liability

There are constant attempts to mislead the public and cast the board in a bad light by using half-truths and telling only part of the D86 story. I want to set the record straight on one of the biggest myths, that the D86 BOE is somehow suddenly springing a \$67 million liability onto the books. This is *false*. In fiscal year 2018, D86 adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75. This statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources and expense/expenditures. GASB Statement No. 75 replaces earlier GASB statements that

related to similar topics. As it must, the school district is following the accounting standards for governmental agencies, and is reporting future liabilities. The idea that this is a massive and sudden recognition of a new liability is completely misleading. The liability has been there all along, but the new accounting standards now require more transparent disclosure of the amount of that liability. This is neither new nor sudden. The suggestion that this falls on the BOE's shoulders is also just wrong. The district is adopting the same GASB accounting statement as many other districts in the area. This is a GASB mandate, not some-

thing our district did. This is *not* unique to D86. Elmhurst, which just approved a \$168.5 million referendum, also adopted GASB statement No. 75, and recognized a liability of \$77.5 million in its most recent financial statements. Park Ridge just passed a \$195 million referendum. They also adopted Statement No. 75, and recognized a liability in their financial statements of \$82.9 million. This liability represents funds that are going to be paid out over many years into the future. I will not stand for the spreading of lies and half-truths in an effort to destroy our schools.

-Michael Jeffords,
Clarendon Hills

Austin does not represent all of Clarendon Hills

Truth is so discounted these days that people in elected office seem to regard truth as only a minor nuisance.

Cases in point concern Clarendon Hills village president Len Austin and his published statements regarding the D86 referendum.

1. Austin states that to his knowledge, Citizens for Clarendon Hills (C4CH) consists of one person (Ed Corcoran).

Len knows this is a false statement, as he acknowledged me as a C4CH member during a recent CH village board caucus nominating committee in-

terview session.

There was an additional C4CH member also present during the interview session.

Len Austin personally knows of at least four on the C4CH steering committee, yet deliberately decided to mislead the readership in an attempt to marginalize C4CH.

2. Austin claims he represents all of Clarendon Hills in voting—*untrue*.

He knows the super majority in CH is against overspending like at D86.

Clarendon Hills voting results clearly show a majority voted with C4CH in nearly every school ref-

erendum, not to mention against the massive failure in the home-rule power-grab.

Two recent D86 referendums failed, and while 2,638 voters agreed with C4CH, Austin seems to think the “no” voters in CH are inconsequential, and should be dismissed.

Interesting he felt the need to ignore truth in attempting to garner support for the upcoming referendum.

-John Jasper,
Clarendon Hills

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