



October 5, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,

Over the past two months, the District 35 Board of Education has been updating our school community on the status of allegations made by an adult, former student toward a former teacher who retired in 1996. The allegations are of a sexual nature and are said to have occurred in the private residence of the former student in the 1970s. Our last communication was shared on August 4, 2017, and is available on our [District 35 website](#).

This is a very difficult situation and the Board is deeply concerned. We have worked diligently to respectfully and compassionately listen and respond to all who have contacted the District, directly or indirectly, with information or opinions to share. We have also been in regular communication with Glencoe Public Safety (GPS). Our School administration reviewed District documents in an effort to find any evidence in support of the allegations, including the former teacher's personnel file, student records and past Board of Education meeting minutes. Our School administration contacted past employees and Board members who might have been in a position to know about this teacher during his time with the District. The Board of Education also made a decision to release the teacher's personnel file and related documents to any interested member of the public, with the hope such documents might be helpful.

Upon completion of a detailed and thorough review, we have found no institutional information or personal knowledge to support or deny these allegations. We have discovered no information to indicate that anything pertaining to the allegations was known to District 35. Likewise, we have found nothing to indicate that the alleged conduct occurred at our schools or while any student was in the care of the District. As such, the Board has determined that we will not initiate further internal or independent investigation of this matter at this time. Should new information come forth in the future, the Board will carefully review and reconsider this decision as appropriate.

We continue to encourage anyone with information regarding this matter to contact GPS at 847-835-4112.

In the meantime, we want our school community to know that District 35 remains committed to protecting and ensuring the safety and well-being of our students. The District conducts criminal background checks as a part of our pre-employment process. In addition, all faculty and staff participate in mandatory training regarding the parameters of appropriate conduct with minor students, as well as other topics related to recognizing signs of sexual abuse, and maintaining a safe school environment. All District faculty and staff members also affirm in writing their duty to report any abuse, neglect or other situations that could cause harm or present a danger to a student. Please visit the [Erin's Law resources](#) on our District 35 website for more information on our current practices with students and staff members. We work with our students to explicitly teach skills of awareness and self-advocacy related to sexual abuse. Parents, staff, or community members with questions about District 35's practices regarding such matters should contact Catherine Wang (wangc@glencoeschools.org).

As always, we thank you for your support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Catherine Wang, *Superintendent*
Gary Ruben, *President*
Melissa Estes, *Vice President*

Julie Ackerman
Marc Gale
Kelly Glauberman

Jean Hahn
Ashley Kain Silver