

## Comments of Paul Eisenstadt at Glenbrook District 225 Board Meeting on May 28, 2024

Superintendent Johns, Vice Chairman Glowicki and the board, Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Paul Eisenstadt of Clover Road, Northbrook, feeder district 31. You may know my daughter; she directed and contributed content to the holocaust remembrance assemblies this year and last. And, she was recognized by the Illinois house of representatives with resolution HR428 "for her efforts to advocate for and fight prejudice against the Jewish community and for her work promoting Jewish identity, combating anti-Semitism, and representing the Jewish community on a global stage."

Contrary to your Friday, May 24 statement on this situation from your website, the statements in the Glenbrook South yearbook piece DO send a clear message to the community and the world that Glenbrook South High School and District 225 support terror and hate; when it is directed at Jews. It cannot be disputed that if this entry was racist against blacks or gays, or any other group, it never would have gotten in, or there would have already been swift action to mitigate it. A student wrote in the yearbook that she was happy Jews were murdered. Can you imagine if a Jewish student wrote they were happy Palestinians were killed? Or that they were sad that slavery was abolished? Inconceivable.

This is not "free-speech"; your hands are not tied; it is hate-speech which I assume, must violate some district policy. Because the target of this content is Jews, if you desire to communicate that you support antisemitism, stand with Hamas and promote genocide against the Jewish state, then you will find a way to defend it, and no further action is required.

However, if you want the message of District 225 to be "Hate has no place here; even hate directed against Jews," then you must do 3 things:

1. Glenbrook South yearbooks must be recalled, reprinted and reissued absent hateful calls for the destruction of a group of people, so Jewish students and others with morals and decency can have high school memories devoid of hate.
  2. District 225 must develop and implement plans to educate our faculty, staff and students, in that order, that "hate has no place here against ANY group, including Jews". That can start by implementing the holocaust remembrance assembly at Glenbrook South and incorporating antisemitic themes found in books read in English class into the curriculum. I know that was brought to the Glenbrook North English department but failed to be adequately implemented.
  3. Someone must be fired. There is no way to assuage this embarrassment without at best, termination for irresponsibility and gross negligence, as in "I didn't know about it", is not a defense; or vicious antisemitism at worst. An apology absent a personnel termination is meaningless; No matter the excuse.
- Thank you for listening to my comments and taking them into consideration.