

On Wednesday, October 9, Yahya Ibrahim Hassan Sinwar, the leader of the terrorist organization Hamas, called for Palestinians and their sympathizers to resume suicide attacks on Israelis and Jews. On Thursday, October 10, a deeply disturbing image surfaced from Glenbrook South High School.

On November 11, 1994, at Netzarim Junction in Gaza, three Israeli reserve officers were murdered by a suicide terrorist bomber on a bicycle. My brother was there and saw them get blown up. One victim was his best friend, a father who left behind three young children, a wife, and devastated parents. The terrorist wore a suicide vest, like the one in the picture from Glenbrook South, and dressed like the individual in the image from Glenbrook South.

To anyone unfamiliar with the threat of suicide bombings or the symbol of a suicide vest, I can tell you it is not a costume. It is a symbol of terror and violence; and yes, a threat. Given the context of the call to resume suicide attacks issued the day before, no one can reasonably claim the image from Glenbrook South was NOT a threat. At least, not until it was confirmed that the vest was not live.

I am deeply disappointed in the district's response to this act of hate. And make no mistake, this is hate, yes, antisemitism is hate. By not addressing antisemitism with the seriousness it demands, this administration has sent a clear message: antisemitism is tolerated, here, in District 225. Whether intentional or not, when the board fails to take decisive action, it tells the community that hate has a place here. And that message was heard.

This incident is not isolated—it is part of a broader, disturbing pattern. And I ask you, how many more incidents will there be, before real action is taken? Our students deserve better. Our community deserves better. It is time for accountability, transparency and a commitment to ensure every student feels safe, even the Jews. I am Paul Eisenstadt; a parent in Northbrook and I stand against hate, including antisemitism.