



Dave Clarkin

March 14 at 8:21 PM

Dear school board candidates: No One bought a house in Park Ridge so their kids could go to school in a trailer. No one.

65 You and 64 others

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Michelle Fiore-Cwiertniak Arlene...thank you for correcting me you are correct...it was the Citizens for Strong Schools referendum (2007) with the intent not to go for a referendum for 10 years. Just verified with someone who was involved on the CSS campaign. Good news it's been 12 years. Again, thank you. Taxes may be one reason why people are needing/choosing to leave but on my block we had 6 new families move in over the past 2 years & in part folks are downsizing as the physical upkeep is too demanding and no longer need the space or the owners passed away. How blessed are we to live in such a desirable community that continues to thrive. And I do agree it's difficult for post-retirement folks to sustain financial comfort given the taxes but unfortunately it's not exclusive to D64.

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Arlene Levin [Michelle](#), thanks, that makes sense that it was the CSS one. And I also agree that people don't only leave because of taxes, but it definitely factors in to the conversation once kids are out of school. And as I said before, I'm very supportive of the schools overall, but want to feel confident that the spending makes sense.

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Tom Sotos [Michelle Fiore-Cwiertniak](#) your comments are very in line with what I have been supporting for the past 4 years. The only difference is, that I have been asking for a comprehensive plan to give us an overview of what we actually need at each of our schools. This way we can explore the best possible way to ease the space constraints, secure a full day kindergarten program and still do it in the most fiscally responsible way possible.

Fiscal responsibility doesn't need to mean being cheap and cutting corners. It could mean, what I believe it to mean, spending our taxpayers money responsibly.

In my 4 years as a board member I have come to believe that even the most frugal of taxpayer wants our schools to be safe, clean and well maintained as well as our performance to be at a high level.

These needs and wants all come with a cost, but if handled properly, the cost can be within the operating

budget we currently work under.

We were able to do close to 40 million worth of well needed renovations to all our schools without the need to raise the taxes by way of referendum.

It can be done. We simply need to keep working at it carefully and responsibly.

This is why I'm running for another 4 years. We need a voice on this board that can bridge old members and new members and bring them together to understand the progress that has already happened, the progress that is in motion but not yet completed and the new vision of the several new members.

This board should not be allowed to be controlled by one group or another. It needs a voter who is not bound to either side.

I am not bound to the 3 current members who will remain on the board (as I have voted opposite of them as many times as I have voted with them)

And I am not bound to the new candidates who are all running as single voice.

We need a tiebreaker member and that person is me. I would love yours and all your friends vote on April 2.

Unless, of course you are participating in early voting, in which case I'll take your vote on the day you cast it.

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