

Ads run by District 99

viewed as 'insulting'

This letter regards the full-page and three-quarter page ads placed by Community High School District 99 in the June 10 and June 12 issues of The Reporter, on pages 5 and 12, titled "An Open Letter to the Village of Woodridge" and "Evaluating Woodridge Land is a Step-by-Step Process."

First of all, I think that both The Reporter and District 99 have an obligation to make it clear that these are paid advertisements and not news items or public service announcements. Readers might assume they are not ads, and that District 99 did not waste taxpayer money to run them, but they would be wrong. Readers might also assume that the opinions expressed are those of The Reporter, which they are not. I hope that in the future, should District 99 try to waste more taxpayer money and disguise advertising as news, The Reporter will print a "Paid Advertisement" label across the bottom.

I hope that District 99 School Board President Julia Kennedy Beckman will publicly announce the exact amount spent on the ads, and state where in the district's budget the funds came from. I estimate that District 99 paid well over \$1,000 for the ads, since a single full-page ad by itself costs more than \$900. This money could have been better spent on our students, and I'm sure that Ms. Beckman could get plenty of suggestions from teachers, students and administrators on better ways to spend the money.

I also look forward to Ms. Beckman's explanation of why she saw fit to run a full-page ad addressed to Woodridge Mayor William Murphy, insulting him and those in Woodridge who feel the same way about this issue. The first ad is condescending and scolding, and the second just repeats the same statements the district has made before.

I think it is incredibly arrogant for Ms. Beckman to spend my taxes to insult me. Previous District 99 announcements have mentioned "fiduciary responsibility," but it is obvious that the School Board's president does not even understand the term.

Craig Kraus

Woodridge