

Change must come

to District 99

We wish to thank the many conscientious citizens who supported our effort to bring meaningful reform to District 99, and we offer a special thanks to those who made additional contributions of time and financial support to that effort.

Since only about 10 percent of registered District 99 voters chose to vote in the April 5 election, and only a couple hundred votes separated the final candidates elected to the School Board from the two of us advocating serious change in district policies, we do not believe the election results are even close to a community endorsement for "more of the same." If anything, it seems our community has been largely alienated from a number of local governing bodies.

Perhaps the low turnout should serve as a message to District 99's new board, as well as to other governing bodies, that a greater effort must be made to serve the entire community with courtesy, creativity, efficiency, fairness and common sense.

We continue to believe change must come to District 99, including to such problem areas as salary/benefits structure, facility and technology needs analysis and implementation, land usage and employee/community relations, just to name a few.

We also wish to point out that individuals, who chose not to disclose their identity, misrepresented a number of our positions at the end of the campaign. As indicated above, and as anyone who has talked to us or attended a board candidates' forum knows, we are not "one-issue candidates." Furthermore, we are not frontmen for the mayor of Woodridge or anyone else rightfully expressing interest in purchasing the district's vacant 44 acres of land/marsh in the heart of Woodridge. We simply agree with the overwhelming majority of citizens (the district's own survey) who believe District 99 can no longer afford the luxury of neither wisely using this land nor selling it.

Finally, we hope that, in the future, when the Reporter newspaper takes our money to insert a political ad, it will properly do so, instead of burying it inside the classified auto section.

We wish the new District 99 board well in the many challenges they face, and we plan to remain active in our advocacy of quality education, fiscal responsibility and better district relations with staff and community. We hope others who share those concerns will make their voices heard also.

Gary Tagtmeier

Richard Rooney

District 99 School Board candidates