

Wheaton-Warrenville just won a state championship. But this championship wasn't won on the field; it was won in a room like this when this Board made our top administrator #1 in the state – in salary, over \$380,000. Like the Tigers, we won by a big margin over the runner-up.

Our district isn't the biggest in the state, and we certainly aren't the wealthiest. Yet we're 50% higher than the average salary for districts over 10,000 students. So how did we get to be number 1? Some board members claim we're getting a good bang for the buck. But they won't tell us how we got there.

Football fans want to know not just whether the team won, but how we won: rushing yards, passing yards, interceptions. You can watch a play develop, and sometimes – every now and then – fans can second-guess or criticize the coaching staff.

Now imagine a football game where no one can attend, and only the result is announced. "We won." But what was the final score? How many yards did we rush for? How did the defense play? Without that information, it would be impossible to follow the game.

Roughly each August, this Board holds a closed meeting to set the high priority goals of the District, which then become the Superintendent's performance goals. What's discussed? It's confidential, and the minutes are destroyed. Have we met our goals? Can't say, because that then becomes a "personnel evaluation" in another closed session. The Board has created a vicious cycle of secrecy about some of the most fundamental facts in the District.

The superintendent is the coach of our district – sometimes people like the plays he calls, sometimes they don't, but that goes with the job. You don't get to hide your statistics just because someone might disagree with your game plan. At the end of the season, fans get to see them, and evaluate for themselves how the team did in all phases of the game. If this Board is so confident we have a great coach, what does it have to hide?

The Board wants us to believe that complying with the Freedom of Information Act is a "diversion," but it's not. If you want to avoid legal fees, just obey the law and do what the Illinois Attorney General told you, not once but twice. The Board wants us to believe this is about the Hubble site, but it's not – my request was in January, and the site wasn't identified until May.

The Board also wants to make this a personal issue about me, but it's not. It's not about any one administrator, either. The Board claims this contract is private, yet gave it to the newspapers – not the way most people keep information confidential. Apparently, they just don't trust District 200 residents, whom they refer to as "these people," or at least anyone who asks enough questions to make it onto their enemies list.

The issue here is accountability, and whether this Board has enough respect for our community to let us make our own decisions based on all the facts, good or bad, instead of just the Board's sanitized spin. Regrettably, the fact that I had to file suit tells us what this Board thinks about our community. It is, in the words of Jack Nicholson in "A Few Good Men," that "You can't handle the truth." What other potentially negative information is the Board concealing from the community that we don't even know about?

I ask this Board: let the community watch the game. After all, we're the ones paying for it.

Remarks to Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education, December 13, 2006

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County	School District	Superintendent (2006)	Address	City	ZIP	Phone No.	Students	2005 Salary
COOK	CITY OF CHICAGO SD 299	ARNE DUNCAN	125 S CLARK	CHICAGO	60603	773553-1000	0420982	216181
KANE	SD U-46	DR CONNIE NEALE	355 E CHICAGO ST	ELGIN	60120	847888-5000	0039656	205000
WINNEBAGO	ROCKFORD SD 205	DR DENNIS L THOMPSON	201 S MADISON ST	ROCKFORD	61104	815966-3101	0029145	213186
DUPAGE	INDIAN PRAIRIE CUSD 204	HOWARD CROUSE	780 SHORELINE DR	AURORA	60504	630375-3000	0028510	207466
WILL	PLAINFIELD SD 202	DR JOHN HARPER	15732 HOWARD ST	PLAINFIELD	60544	815577-4000	0024371	172253
DUPAGE	NAPERVILLE CUSD 203	DR ALAN E LEIS	203 W HILLSIDE RD	NAPERVILLE	60540	630420-6300	0018697	203873
KANE	CUSD 300	KENNETH M ARNDT	300 CLEVELAND AVE	CARPENTERSVILLE	60110	847426-1300	0018670	188033
WILL	VALLEY VIEW CUSD 365U	DR PHILLIP W SCHOFFSTAL	755 LUTHER DR	ROMEOVILLE	60446	815886-2700	0017510	201923
LAKE	WAUKEGAN CUSD 60	DR DONALDO R BATISTE	1201 N SHERIDAN RD	WAUKEGAN	60085	847336-3100	0015841	136000
PEORIA	PEORIA SD 150	KEN HINTON	3202 N WISCONSIN AVE	PEORIA	61603	309672-6768	0015203	136173***
SANGAMON	SPRINGFIELD SD 186	DR DIANE RUTLEDGE	1900 W MONROE ST	SPRINGFIELD	62704	217525-3002	0015097	161576
COOK	SCHAUMBURG CCSD 54	EDWARD F RAFFERTY	524 E SCHAUMBURG RD	SCHAUMBURG	60194	847357-5000	0014471	210725
DUPAGE	CUSD 200	DR GARY CATALANI	130 W PARK AVE	WHEATON	60187	630682-2002	0014076	311075
COOK	CICERO SD 99	CLYDE SENTERS	5110 W 24TH ST	CICERO	60804	708863-4856	0013528	156093
KANE	ST CHARLES CUSD 303	DR BARBARA F ERWIN	201 S 7TH ST	SAINT CHARLES	60174	630613-3030	0013443	231593
COOK	TOWNSHIP HSD 211	DR ROGER THORNTON	1750 S ROSELLE RD	PALATINE	60067	847755-6600	0013026	203581
COOK	PALATINE CCSD 15	DR ROBERT A MCKANNA	580 N 1ST BANK DR	PALATINE	60067	847563-3000	0012794	212049
KENDALL	OSWEGO CUSD 308	DAVID L BEHLOW	4175 RTE 71	OSWEGO	60543	630636-3080	0012599	187959
COOK	TOWNSHIP HSD 214	DR DAVID R SCHULER	2121 S GOEBBERT RD	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	60005	847718-7600	0012542	288512*
KANE	AURORA WEST USD 129	DR JAMES RYDLAND	80 S RIVER ST	AURORA	60506	630301-5033	0012491	250907*
KANE	AURORA EAST USD 131	DR JEROME ROBERTS	417 5TH ST	AURORA	60505	630299-5554	0012316	215049*
MCLEAN	MCLEAN COUNTY USD 5	DR ALAN CHAPMAN	1809 W HOVEY AVE	NORMAL	61761	309452-4476	0011760	148350
WILL	JOLIET PSD 86	DR PHYLLIS WILSON	420 N RAYNOR AVE	JOLIET	60435	815740-3196	0010111	172769

Illinois school districts over 10,000 students, from Illinois State Board of Education Web Site
2005 superintendent salaries from www.thechampion.org (most recent available data)
* Superintendent is new; salary for superintendent serving in 2005
** No superintendent listed; salary of highest paid district employee

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