

Good evening. My name is Jim Moss. I am a member of a family whose members have spent nearly 90 years in the Lake Bluff school system. I am pleased to state we all enjoyed our education and believe it prepared us well for the challenges of high school, college and most importantly life.

Tonight I stand before you in my least favorite role. To the best of my knowledge I am the first abuse victim of Charles Ritz in Lake Bluff. The most painful aspect of this title is that I know there are 30+ victims and if I believe the statistics, his victims may number in excess of 100.

I am here to outline a few truths and conclude with a request of this Board.

**Truth #1: Charles Ritz is a Predator:** In a short span of a time in Lake Bluff Ritz progressed from providing students with pornography, alcohol and conducting inappropriate touching to conducting the most horrific acts imaginable.

**Truth #2: Ritz did not operate in secrecy:** His actions were known or strongly suspected by parents, non-victim students, school employees and leaders in the community.

**Truth #3: Ritz knew he was wrong:** Ritz constantly demanded his students to lie about where he took them, what he did with them and what he gave them. This is inconsistent with the actions of an innocent man.

**Truth #4: His Victims are hurting today:** The victim group has an inordinate number of people in therapy, people challenged to maintain relationships and jobs and people with alcohol and drug addictions. The parents, friends,

spouses and siblings of the victims will tell you the victims have never been the same since junior high.

**Truth #5: The Initial Response of the School Was**

**Promising:** Mr. Ritz' resignation was in response to a serious and attentive process of getting to the truth in the months prior to his resignation.

**Truth #6: The response of the school board failed on**

**many fronts:** The passing of the trash response of the school after Mr. Ritz' resignation failed current students, future students, alumni, Lake Bluff taxpayers, future employers of Mr. Ritz and any future victims of Mr. Ritz.

**Truth #7: The System is Difficult for Victims:** The victims are presented with a path that questions their integrity and worth. Disputes that involve "he said/he said" scenarios are a tough challenge for an independent party to resolve. However, when one of the parties is a student and he says "my teacher abused me", the challenge of solving that "dispute" needs to be resolved promptly and with dignity.

**Truth #8: The victims of Charles Ritz are here to stay:** The process of victims coming forward is challenging. Taking a step back at this point is not an option. It is never too late to do the right thing.

There is no statute of limitation preventing you from taking action to respond to the needs of victims and to provide for the safety of students today and in the future.

**Our Request:** A petition has been put forth to you with more than 300 signatures. It outlines eight defined steps that have been effectively employed in similar situations to the satisfaction of all parties. None of the steps outlined prevent you from cooperating with law enforcement. At a minimum we request you to establish the petition as an agenda item at your next board meeting and to continue to include it as an agenda item until the board decides how to proceed. Your course of action from here will indicate where your priorities lie. We are hopeful you choose a path that clearly shows support for your former, current and future students.

Thank you for your patience and attention.