

Misty Fronk Phone Call

These are notes from a call with Misty Fronk on March 2nd. It's an 11m44s phone call at 1pm with 217-520-0090

She said she had the documentation in her hand in the news room when she did the WAND interview and did not pull it "out of thin air"

She said the statistics were for "high school graduates"

She says she's not the only one running for School Board who felt that way (that proficiency rates were low)

She said if those aren't the accurate proficiency rates for seniors, it needs to be clarified.

I told her the graduation rate was about 86%. She said they were numbers from 2019 & that she's not saying that 2022 numbers weren't better

She reiterates that schools, parents, and voters are "failing the children" based on what she saw

I told her I thought the 35-40% proficiency rates still seemed "low to me" and that I'd like to get some clarity as to why the numbers in the Illinois Report card are not consistent with the numbers she has from those organizations.

She says there's so much she feels can be done that won't cost the schools any money. Such as volunteer-based after school programs. She said when her daughter moved away because the schools were failing her grandchildren "I just died" & she said she "didn't believe it until I went to this thing and saw the proficiency rates."

She says she thought her daughter would be an overprotective mom - I got the impression she meant that she believed her grandkids would have a sufficient education as a result of this.

she said even 30 or 40% that's "still not acceptable"

She asked me to correct part of my writeup - Regarding "so some kids look for alternate means to feed themselves, like crime or gang activity." She asked me to add "some kids", because the way I had written it previously might have given the impression that she thought all kids turned to crime when failed by schools or society. That was an accident on my part, a side effect of paraphrasing, which I explained. I had written "so they look for alternate means" and corrected it to "some kids" instead of "they". She said she's glad that could be corrected, because that misrepresentation that I wrote could look bad. She said WAND also edited out some of the stuff she said.

She asked if I was writing about all of the WAND interviews for other candidates.

I said yes & that I had already covered other candidates in some detail except her and Mark Reynolds, & that I would be writing up Mark Reynolds next

She said that WAND interview was probably the first time anyone heard her name. She said she works full time & is raising 3 other grandchildren and it is hectic.

She said running wasn't something she was prepared to do, but she saw the proficiency rates & her daughter moved away & someone said there were positions opening up on the school board, and she thought if she wanted to make a difference in the community, starting at the school board would be good.

She said she's talked with a lot of grandmothers she works with whose families have moved away & it's largely because of the illinois schools, not because of taxes or inflation

She says that taxes are part of why illinois is losing people but that its also because of our education system

She added information about single family homes that its because parents are working so much and sometimes caring for

another child & that sometimes school works gets un-intentionally forgotten.

She said WAND took out of her interview her saying that if she got on the school board, that she would like to sit down with parents, teachers, and students, if they feel the school board needs to address something, and that she would see if there was something she could do.

I said I should be able to work that in

She said she'd let me go because she is working & that she'd get me the statistics this evening. I told her I'd wait until tomorrow (Friday March 3) to publish. I also asked for a headshot for her candidate page, and she said she would send it.