



MPSD Appoints Retired UW-Manitowoc Professor

Kerry Trask will serve three months, 4 Board seats up for election

Manitowoc - Retired University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc history professor and author Kerry Trask was unanimously appointed Wednesday to fill a temporary vacancy on the Manitowoc Public School District Board of Education.

The appointment is only for three months; to continue serving on the Board Trask will need to finish among the top vote-getters in the Feb. 16, 2021 primary election and April 6, 2021 general election.

Four of the seven MPSD Board of Education seats are up for election in spring. There are 10 candidates vying for the four seats: two incumbents, Lisa Johnston and Richard (Dick) Nitsch, and eight newcomers, Collin Braunel, Aaron Erdmann, Michael Gregurich, Riley Mayer, Rhonda Neumann, Timothy Reis and Stacey Soeldner. Incumbent Catherine Shallue chose not to run again, and incumbent Elizabeth Williams stepped down during her term, creating the vacancy temporarily filled by Trask.

The primary election Feb. 16 will narrow the candidates from 10 to eight. On April 6, the top four vote-getters will be elected to the Board.

Five of the eight newcomers also filed paperwork to be considered for the temporary Board appointment. In a special meeting Wednesday, Board members interviewed Erdmann, Neumann, Reis and Trask and reviewed a videotaped response from Gregurich who was unable to attend, before voting 5-0 to appoint Trask.

Trask served as a UW-Manitowoc professor for more than 30 years and as History Department chair for all 13 University of Wisconsin Colleges. He told Board members Wednesday that one of his proudest moments was helping the bronze [Spirit of the Rivers art sculpture](#) project get enough funding to be installed in 2018.

In addition to the Board seats on the April election, residents will vote on an MPSD operating referendum seeking approval for up to \$4.3 million annually, for three years, to maintain existing K12 educational programming and opportunities, and fund capital and technology needs.

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