



## Board of Ed sworn in following April elections

Three members were sworn in Tuesday night for new terms on the Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education including an incumbent, a recently appointed member and a new member.

The board members also selected board officers: Carl Gilmore will remain president, Jacob Homuth will remain vice president and John Parisi will serve again as board secretary.

Incumbent Jerry Miceli, Michelle Bidwell and John Headley were sworn in for four-year terms expiring in 2023. Miceli, a high school teacher in Vernon Hills; Bidwell, a clinical psychologist; and Headley, a retired Woodstock High School teacher ran unopposed and were all elected on April 2.

Bidwell was appointed Dec. 11 to fill the remainder of David Shinherr's term after Shinherr relocated out of state for a new career opportunity while Headley ran for the spot that had been held by Russ Goerlitz who chose not to seek another term.

Headley, 60, of Woodstock, was a popular social studies teacher who also headed that department at Woodstock High School before retiring in 2017. Over three decades, he also coached baseball and helped found the school's Key Club, which teaches students the importance of community service.

In 2017, Headley was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education with an Award of Merit at the "Those Who Excel" banquet honoring outstanding educators.

Headley still practices what he preached volunteering 12 hours a week at the Woodstock Food Pantry and donating significant time to a Styrofoam recycling program with fellow retired teachers through the McHenry County Environmental Defenders.

Besides his perspective as an educator, Headley will also take on his Board role with the experience of District parent. He and his wife Jean sent three children to District 200 schools, all of whom are Woodstock High School graduates.

While Headley has always held leadership roles in school and the community, he said he's looking forward to serving on the Board of Education.

“I’ve always tried to put kids before anything else in decision making,” Headley said. “The most important thing any teacher can do, and I want to carry the same philosophy to the Board, is to engage kids.”

“Engagement is the gateway to education. You need to be able to have the kids communicate with you. That’s the crucial element,” Headley added.

Goerlitz was honored by the Board with a resolution for his 11 years of service with the Board. Gilmore noted that Goerlitz’s involvement with District 200 began with the Facilities Review Committee and said he brought valuable experience and perspective to the Board.

“He’s been a person to go to, to rely upon,” Gilmore said. “He’s been a wonderful member of this board and we’re going to miss him terribly.”

Goerlitz said it was his privilege to serve on the board. “Seeing how this District has progressed over the past 10-11 years has been amazing.”

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