

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Francour is vital to MTSD's continued excellence

To the editor:

I have known Wendy Francour since 1995. Our paths first crossed when I was a MTSD first grade teacher and Wendy was a parent volunteer. Wendy was instrumental in ensuring teachers were valued, appreciated and assisted. Relationships between teachers and parents are a critical component for all students to learn. Wendy understands this concept. She has continued to prioritize staff to be one of the district's most valuable assets in achieving the district's vision: "Each student, every time, empowered to succeed."

When I stopped teaching and became a fellow MTSD parent, Wendy encouraged me to get involved with the Mequon Thiensville Education Foundation. To this day, she and I continue to volunteer and attend school functions together. Wendy's enthusiasm for public education is the heartbeat of why she has chosen to volunteer for the MTSD School Board. She is honest, trustworthy and approachable.

Wendy is fiscally conservative and understands how the district's budget operates. During her time on the board, Wendy has helped the district retain its Moody's Aaa Bond Rating. Out of 421 Wisconsin school districts, MTSD is one of only three to receive this top rating!

Wendy's nearly three decades of involvement and experience in MTSD as a parent and volunteer, including the last nine pivotal years on the MTSD School Board, are vital in ensuring the district's continued excellence and commitment

to each child. On April 4, please vote to re-elect Wendy Francour for Mequon Thiensville School District Board of Education.

**Libby Baranko**  
Mequon

### AP classes crucial to CHS curriculum

To the editor:

As a parent of a student who is preparing to graduate in 2024 and attend college, I am alarmed that there is an individual running for school board who has advocated for removing AP classes from the CHS curriculum.

Kate Erickson's campaign website has stated, "I would advocate for the following policy changes if elected: move away from AP courses as many colleges do not accept the credit or will only allow it as elective credit." In my opinion, this position is simply ludicrous.

AP courses are essential to the curriculum of any student who is considering pursuing higher education. I acknowledge that not every student will choose this path, but they should absolutely be available for those who do.

According to April 2022 AP data:

■ AP students from all backgrounds, including those with average scores of a 1 or 2, are more likely to enroll in a four-year college compared to academically similar students who chose not to take an AP course.

■ Students who earn a score of 2 on AP exams perform as well or better in introductory college courses, compared to academically similar college peers who did not take AP courses.

College admissions offices look at course load and level when evaluating students. UW-Madison states on their website, "We look for you to be earning top grades, in challenging courses, including honors, IB, and/or AP when available."

Students that pursue college after graduation should be given as many tools as possible to help them be successful. AP courses are an excellent tool. Ms. Erickson's approach is a short-sighted one, and one I do not want represented on the Cedarburg School Board.

Vote for Corey Kubichka and Scott Sidney.

**Tammy Holzer**  
Cedarburg

### Kelly will advance constitutional principles

To the editor:

The Wisconsin Supreme Court election on April 4 will have a serious, years long impact both culturally and economically on Wisconsin citizens. The two candidates are Dan Kelly and Janet Protasiewicz. Dan Kelly, appointed by Gov. Scott Walker, served four years on the court and cast votes according to Wisconsin constitutional law. Protasiewicz served on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court with reported questionable behavior.

In an interview (WKOW-TV), she claimed she embraces the progressive label. Leftists have co-opted this word, progressive, for socialism — a disfigured, diseased imagination with contempt for intellectual liberty. She also insinuated for certain issues (i.e., abortion) that make their way to the court, she may need to put her thumb on the scale, arbitrarily ruling.

As a judge on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Dan Kelly has and will uphold Wisconsin Constitutional Law; Protasiewicz will not; Dan Kelly will uphold parents' inalienable rights; she will not; Dan Kelly will support girls' and women's rights in athletics without biological males' infringements; she will not; Dan Kelly will support a culture of life for pre-born children and all people; she will not.

The progressive view of culture is one of tyranny, ruthless destruction of freedom — individual, religious, cultural, economic. Dan Kelly will advance constitutional principles of liberty and justice, the rule of law and support institutions of merit, as he has already proven himself. Wisconsin citizens must be made to care in this election. Vote April 4 for a constitutional originalist for Wisconsin Supreme Court. Vote for Dan Kelly.

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."* Edmund Burke. Preserve Wisconsin Constitutional Liberty. Vote for Dan Kelly April 4, 2023. *"Vigilance is the price of liberty."* Thomas Jefferson.

**Barbara C. Duff**  
Grafton

### Bach is patient, positive and fair

To the editor:

Gregg Bach, a candidate for Mequon's 5th District alderman post, commits himself to building relationships and community if elected on April 4. When I read such campaign promises, I'm apt to think they are little more than talking points, soon-forgotten. As a Mequon resident and parent volunteer who worked with Gregg Bach for well over a decade, I can tell

you that building relationships and community are NOT just empty words for Gregg. Tackling issues and opportunities with a strategy of communication and cooperation is simply in Gregg's hardwiring. In his various roles in school administration, Gregg always showed up first to listen. Patient, positive, fair, honest, respected — these are just some of the qualities that he brought to the table when working with passionate and off-opinionated constituencies. He raised the bar for volunteers, students and the staff around him not by words or "campaign promises," but by his actions and positive outcomes. Gregg is not about ego, he's about everybody. Mequon residents, and not just of the 5th District, are fortunate that Gregg now offers his experience, skills and personal attributes to benefit our town and its future. I encourage you to learn more about Gregg at [www.bach4mequon.com](http://www.bach4mequon.com) and help elect him to this important role on April 4.

**Ellen Venable**  
Mequon

### Francour deserves your vote for MT School Board

To the editor:

This is a letter supporting the candidacy of Wendy Francour for re-election to the Mequon Thiensville School Board. For over 20 years I have witnessed Wendy in a wide range of leadership roles as an advocate for children and those who serve them. As principal at Lake Shore Middle School, I worked with her when she served as co-president of the PTA. She led a PTA, now called PTO, board of over 20

committees that focused on improving teaching, learning for all students. She formed a committee focused on creating after school activities for Lake Shore students.

Whether it was being on advisory committees, the District Middle Level Task Force that evaluated middle school programs, developing PALS, a parent assisted tutoring program, or working to initiate a Lake Shore-Japan family exchange and travel, Wendy always had the welfare of kids uppermost in her mind.

Though no longer a district resident, I have served as a program director and adjunct professor at Concordia University in Mequon since 1996 until the present. I have continued to keenly observe Wendy's ongoing engagement with the Mequon-Thiensville community, especially her nine years of service on the School Board. She brings thoughtful, well-reasoned leadership to the board, advocacy for all district students and teachers and truly listens to all community citizens and stakeholders. Wendy Francour strongly deserves your vote and reelection to the Mequon-Thiensville School Board.

**Michael Dietz**  
Hancock

**LETTERS POLICY:** Letters should be signed and include phone number and address so that we may verify authenticity. Neither phone number nor address will be printed when letters appear. We reserve the right to edit letters. Please keep letters to no more than 300 words. Generally, letter writers are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters might appear in multiple Conley Media publications.

• **Email:** [letters@conley.net](mailto:letters@conley.net)