

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Malek has right traits for Cedarburg School Board

To the editor:

We have known Hani Malek for about 20 years, and we strongly support his election to the Cedarburg School Board. In our opinion, Hani has all the traits necessary to help guide the School Board in its mission of providing the best possible education for our kids in a fiscally responsible way. These traits include being a good listener, having excellent communications skills, demonstrated business leadership, an incredible work ethic and a deep caring for our kids and their education.

Please join us in supporting Hani.

Bob and Maria Loomis  
Cedarburg

## Johnson wallows in 'cesspool' in MTSD School Board race

To the editor:

"The Catholic Church needs another inquisition." That was a tweet from Illinois agitator Frank McCormick in response to an article about a Jesuit university employing a rabbi with whom Mr. McCormick apparently disagrees. Another of his tweets trumpets that bullying teachers would be a "perk" of a new business he is looking to create. Yet another charges Black History Month as a "Trojan horse" for leftist ideology. Another post mocks transgender and non-binary youths. Others say that public education is irredeemable and must be destroyed. The list goes on.

That social media can be a cesspool of repulsive content is nothing new. What makes Mr. McCormick relevant to Mequon-Thiensville is that Scarlett Johnson, a candidate for the Mequon-Thiensville School Board, has publicly embraced his ideas as a must-read, while gushing over his endorsement of her candidacy.

The teachers and staff of MTSD work tirelessly on behalf of our children. They are not our enemy. They are our partners and ought to be treated with respect and empathy. Public education is not something that should be destroyed.

Statements like these are not vehicles of independent thinking. They incite hate and promote the mistreatment of others as an appropriate mechanism for voicing disapproval. No one whose values system incorporates these views should be allowed anywhere near our educational system. Nor should those who support them.

Chad Winterfield  
Mequon

## Reimer backs Malek for Cedarburg School Board

To the editor:

Having served over 11 years on the Cedarburg School Board, I feel I am keenly aware of how a board can and should operate effectively. A board consisting of a broad variety of talent from various walks of life provides the strongest body to govern our schools.

Today I am endorsing Hani Malek for Cedarburg School District School Board. Hani brings over 30 years of proven leadership in various sales, marketing and business development roles. Hani is a respected leader by his co-workers and fellow business associates. If you know him, you know Hani is an active listener, an excellent communicator, a seasoned negotiator. His business acumen is second to none. One of his even stronger skill sets is his expertise in all elements of financial statements. Hani's fiscally conservative background will serve him and our district well as we navigate the next few years.

He and his wife, Julie, raised three kids here, all graduating and moving on to successful college experiences. Hani believes all Cedarburg kids deserve the best education while also ensuring each of them feels safe and welcomed in their school. Please join me in voting Hani Malek for Cedarburg School District School Board. Our community needs his solid leadership now more than ever.

Chris Reimer  
Cedarburg

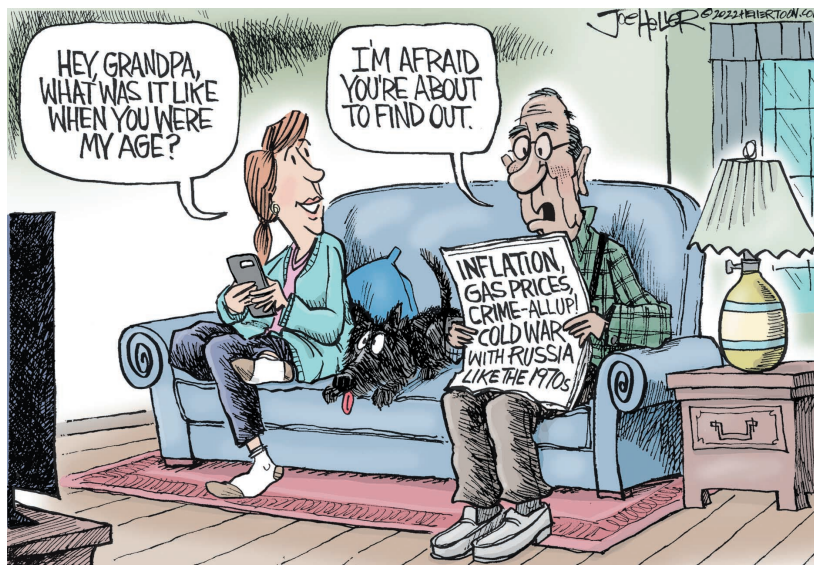
## A pivotal School Board election

To the editor:

Early in the pandemic when our school system stayed open while employing all available COVID mitigation measures at its disposal, there was a sense in the community that we had banded together and done something valuable for students and families. Then, things shifted. As the 2021-22 school year approached, it became clear that masking would be optional, on-site COVID testing would not be employed and social distancing was a thing of the past. With new variants making their appearance and presenting greater potential for COVID transmission, our schools no longer felt safe. It's a terrible feeling as a parent to wonder if your child's school is a safe environment to be in.

The concern over safety extends beyond COVID as well. Removing a mural promoting the universality of love — a mural that children worked hard to create — is threatening to the social-emotional health of our youth. Adding to the feeling of parental unease was the recently placed limitation on public dialogue during School Board meetings. Under the new rule, comments are limited to agenda items approved only by the School Board president. This leaves little opportunity for parents to publicly express concerns or engage in meaningful discourse; it stifles the sharing of multiple viewpoints within our school community.

I hope that Cedarburg residents will take the time to thoroughly research School Board candidates' positions on



these various issues and vote this April. The direction that our district takes is at stake. Are we a district that follows public health guidelines and scientific evidence or a district that allows itself to be dominated by extremist viewpoints? Are we a district that promotes the universality of love and respect for all, or one that undermines the self-worth of students? The way that our community votes in this election will play a pivotal role in shaping our schools and our students' education for years to come.

Heidi Laurila  
Cedarburg

## No, masks don't hurt children

To the editor:

It is wonderful that COVID-19 rates are going down in our area to such a degree that Mequon-Thiensville School District has removed the requirement for masks from 5K-12th grade. The board and Dr. Joynt have done an amazing job of following their COVID-19 plan, adjusting it as needed and following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and the Washington-Ozaukee Public Health Department. Requiring masks when the community burden of communicable disease is high makes sense.

For those of you who disagree with the science behind masking, please read the CDC science brief on Community Risks of Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2. Specifically the section on children. Recent studies have shown little to no effects on children who wear masks. Reported side effects were minor and not dangerous, unlike the virus which could be taken home and spread to their parents, grandparents and siblings. While children seem to fare this virus quite well, they bring it home. Many healthy adults have died from this virus. The big picture is what MTSD is looking at in regard to our masking policy.

This is a time to celebrate the community and district efforts that have led to such drastically reduced cases in our area. Vaccinating, masking when in close proximity to others, hand washing and social distancing are all very effective methods of lowering the spread. We have proven that.

For those who are running for School Board on a platform that MTSD COVID-19 policies have harmed our children, your evidence of this has been weak at best, and complete lies at worst. Stop exploiting our children and our fear for your political agenda, and let our community heal. This is not something that should have ever been politicized for your political benefit. This is our community. If this virus was killing children instead of adults and the elderly, would that finally get you to admit that it's a danger to our community? We all deserve health.

Amanda Sherman  
Mequon

## Crossing guard hangs up stop sign

To the editor:

Well, I decided it was time to resign from my duties with the Cedarburg Police Department as substitute crossing guard at Thorson Elementary School, Monday through Friday mornings from 8:15 to 9:00 due to health issues, one being arthritis.

I will miss greeting Chase and his grandpa, Heather and her three girls, Toni and her three daughters, Serafia and her mom, mom Nicole and Easton, mom Stacey and Hudson, mom Amber Grayson and Mckeena, mom Nicole Van and Lake, two Emmas, mom Sally and her daughter Amelia, mom Erin and Lucy in the sky diamonds, mom Kelly and Madie, mom Eva and Stella and mom Emily and Charley.

May God bless you. I misses you all already.

Kevin Montross  
Mequon

## Vote Paul Buzzell and Jason Levash to MTSD School Board

To the editor:

I am a Mequon resident and MTSD parent who appreciates the thoughtful way our school district navigated the pandemic and who is thankful our district remains strong.

That said, learning loss due to the pandemic is real, and there are challenges ahead. No one will be more critical in helping address those challenges than educators. Retaining our excellent teachers, while continuing to recruit new talent, must be one of our district's highest priorities. We must ensure MTSD remains a "destination district" for both current educators and new hires. Unfortunately, the chaos and negativity around the recall and current School Board campaign have made MTSD less attractive. It's time to put an end to the negativity by electing School Board candidates who are committed to educational excellence, show respect and support for our educators, and have the knowledge and expertise to address the teacher shortage and other district issues.

Two School Board candidates, Paul Buzzell and Jason Levash, have demonstrated the necessary experience in finance and administration. They have shown a steadfast commitment to educators, while also listening to all viewpoints and acknowledging that our district should always strive for improvement. Making sure MTSD remains a "destination district" for the highest-quality educators doesn't just benefit educators — it benefits the entire community, from families with kids in the public school system to Mequon and Thiensville residents who enjoy high property values and low relative taxes. These same residents will benefit from future homebuyers drawn to our community because of our excellent schools. On April 5, vote Paul Buzzell and Jason Levash to maintain MTSD as a destination school district for everyone.

Melissa Bleidorn  
Mequon

## Malek an 'ideal candidate' for Cedarburg School Board

To the editor:

I am writing this letter to express my support for Hani Malek for the upcoming Cedarburg School Board election on April 5.

As a 16-year resident of Cedarburg, parent of two Cedarburg High School graduates and a veteran teacher of 31 years, I feel it is important that the Cedarburg community continues to prioritize education and elect School Board members who will make decisions to support what is best for students' learning. Hani Malek is the ideal candidate for the Cedarburg School Board.

I have known Hani Malek for more than 12 years and can attest to his qualifications for membership on the Cedarburg School Board. Most importantly, Hani is a good listener. He truly wants to get to know what people value and understand their point of view on issues, even if he holds a different point of view. Extending from this, his many years of experience as a community business leader has provided an opportunity for Hani to communicate with others effectively and efficiently. His ability to collaborate with others for optimum results is an asset that Hani will bring to the board. Hani is also an extremely optimistic and goal-oriented individual who seeks the best possible outcome for his actions, both personally and professionally.

I trust that Hani will make sound, thoughtful and carefully researched decisions that are best for the students and teachers in the Cedarburg School District. Please show your support and vote for Hani Malek on April 5.

Cindy Dettlaff  
Cedarburg