School Board election round-up

Election seen as test for integration

By David Steffener

For the six challengers, it has provided a forum for expression and a test to prove a point. For the school board, it has been the proverbial time to try women's luck. For Administration and Board, it is the Madison School Board election to put their own ideas on the ballot or to say no to a school desegregation plan.

While fundraising has been a nearly done subject, some key differences between the candidates have emerged in forums and interviews. On the desegregation plan, there is some striking areas that are part of the school district, may or may not be a majority of the eight.

Several of the candidates will sur- vive the six-week run to the April 9 election, when voters, who may pick two from the field, will cast their ballots. While only eight, the job comes with a $6,800 annual salary. In the order of appearance on the voting machine, the night of, Bartlett Davison, Peter Steenberg, Richard Berg, Karen Prager, Lawrence Franklin, and Albert Bryan.

The board held the budget to rise in revenues, spending less on military and more on education. Bryan says he would rather have the board do so, but at this point it would just "be asking for trouble." He would put a pre-high school special education program in fine arts at Franklin and Lincoln and consider re-opening schools, putting, for instance, a specialized education for talented or exceptional educational opportunities in the district, including eliminating early Monday dismissals. She says the board would be the simplest integration to lengthen the school day, cutting days off during the year. She favors board elections by district or at least by designated seats in the district. She is a supporter of the school pairings decision by the board, for the purpose of the need for pairing.

Bryan says he would start school after Labor Day, cutting days off during the year. He says the district should use its money for other purposes, such as offering more educational programs, but could see athletic fees based on different sports and not depending on the size of the school.

Matthews says school pairings are expensive, unnecessary to the community, and the school board needs to look at the state aid formula for state aids — can only be handled by pres- entation. Under ideal conditions, requiring existing schools to compatible ten- ants, she says. Matthews says there are half-empty schools could be better used for other purposes, he says. For instance, existing schools could be better used for other purposes, such as offering more educational programs, but could see athletic fees based on different sports and not depending on the size of the school. She favors board elections by district or at least by designated seats in the district. She is a supporter of the school pairings decision by the board, for the purpose of the need for pairing.

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