

Editorial - Thanks deserved

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Richard Dolinski didn't end his public service when he left his Midland Public Schools board seat Monday. He merely changed roles a bit.

He deserves the community's thanks - both for his 18 years on the board and for planning to continue to try to help children.

Dolinski announced establishment of The Legacy Center for Student Success. It will focus on researching and doing something about out-side-of-school factors that impede learning.

Dolinski didn't merely fill a spot on the board. He was an inspiration. MPS board member Gerald Wasserman called him "the poster child for the board with his ethics, credibility and care."

Wasserman said Dolinski is "one of the reasons I'm on the school board." More people should step forward - not because of any quality problem of school board members, but because of more candidacies' potential benefits. Contested races for school board seats are far too infrequent. Thus, there's little or no debate and exploration of alternatives in the weeks preceding school board elections.

School board members don't get paid per meeting or per year. They get the satisfaction of knowing they're trying to make a difference for students, school employees, the community, the state and nation. And, unfortunately, they can get headaches because problems are knotty and there's not enough money to meet all the challenges simultaneously - if at all.

So, if you appreciate the efforts of Dolinski and others who shoulder responsibility, say thank you.

And consider being one of those who shoulder some of the responsibility. Remain well-informed. Ask questions, offer opinions and consider seeking a board seat or serving in some other role.

You could be the next Richard Dolinski - a public servant, an inspiration, a person who finds another way to help rather than merely resting after doing an important job.