MVTHS Board swears in its newest members

BY JASON SILVEY
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The makeup of the Mt. Vernon Township High School Board of Education was finalized Tuesday night.

The board conducted a special meeting to seat its newly elected members, bid farewell to its outgoing peers, and make nominations for board offices.

Karen Goodwine presided over the meeting initially, as acting president for the review and approval of the results from the April 7 election.

"I think everyone has had a chance to look at those," Goodwine said before officially recognizing Carl Miller, Cynthia Davis and Kimberly Alvis as the new members of the MVTHS Board.

Miller received the most votes with 2,152. Davis was next with 1,616 votes, and Alvis claimed the third seat with 1,405 votes, defeating challenger Robin Dodd and incumbent Ron Copenhaver.

After each member of the current board signed off on the results, Goodwine presented plaques to departing members Greg Backes and Copenhaver in honor of their service. Board president Daniel Hoffman, who is also leaving the his seat, was absent.

Goodwine noted, "I figured out there was 26 years of board mem-

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SWORN IN — Newly elected Mt. Vernon Township High School Board of Education members, FROM LEFT, Cynthia Davis, Carl Miller and Kimberly Alvis take the oath of office Tuesday at a special board meeting.

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ber service between the three of you. Those are going to be big shoes to fill."

Miller, Davis and Alvis were then sworn in by Goodwine, who led them in a recitation of the Illinois School Board Association oath of office.

The three new members pledged to "respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the school district's assets"; "encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees"; "recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public board meeting"; and "I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels."

"I congratulate all three of you," Goodwine said. "I'd like to welcome our three new board members. I'm excited to have you here, and I look forward to working with you."

The first action of the new board was nominate members to serve as president and vice president.

Miller's first act on the board was to nominate Goodwine for board president. The motion was seconded, and no other nominations were made. Goodwine was then elected to serve as the new board president by acclamation.

Jon Hawthorne then nominated Robert Stewart for vice president. That nomination was also unchallenged, and the meeting was adjourned.

Michael Smith, who was hired by the board last week as the new MVTHS superintendent, was also in attendance.

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