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New board member hits ground running

By [Kathy Cichon](#)
staff writer

WHEATON — Moments after being sworn in as a DuPage County Board member, Jerry "J.R." McBride went right to work.

The Glen Ellyn resident was appointed to the board during a special meeting Tuesday and also was asked to serve on four of the board's committees – half of which met that morning.

"I'm trying to learn as much as I can about the board," McBride said after being sworn in. "I know there's a learning curve for everything."

McBride is serving out the remainder of the term left vacant by County Board Vice Chairman John Noel, who died last month. Bob Heap, R-Naperville, was appointed as the new vice chairman Tuesday.

McBride said he is looking forward to serving the residents of District 4 as well as the entire county. He will serve on the county's Public Transit, Stormwater, Transportation and Technology committees.

Among the goals he would like to see the county achieve is to "be as fiscally responsible as possible," McBride said.

Open candidate slot

In the spring election, McBride ran against incumbent Grant Eckhoff of Wheaton.

McBride will serve the remaining six months of Noel's term. Although County Board Chairman Robert J. Schillerstrom appointed McBride to fill the vacancy, the local Republican organization will determine who will take Noel's spot on the fall ballot for the two-year term in District 4.

Running as the Democratic candidate for the two-year seat is Glen Ellyn resident Richard L. Dunn, who has name recognition, having served as director of the Glen Ellyn Planning and Development Department from 1990 to 2004.

More tasks for Heap

Schillerstrom also asked Heap to serve on the county's Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

Heap said he is appreciative of Schillerstrom's trust, and that the county has a lot to do over the next six to seven months as it looks to finalize its strategic plan and evaluates its revenue sources.

"I think there's some exciting possibilities," Heap said.

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