

**MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #150  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

201 Chicago Street

Thursday

March 17, 2022

6:30 pm

President Jim Barnes called the Marseilles Board of Education meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Members answering roll call were President Jim Barnes, Cherise Byone, Christy Carpenter, Lawrence Cowie, Bobby Kaminski, Brad Miller, and Julie Morey. Also in attendance were Superintendent Brenda Donahue, Craig Hepner, Deb DeGraaf, Traci Bianchi, Jennifer Morello, Karlin Hawkins, Cindy Shroba Amanda Polier, and Stephanie Simpko.

President Barnes asked Mrs. DeGraaf if anyone had requested public comment. Mrs. DeGraaf reported that two people had requested to speak. Karlin Hawkins and Cindy Shroba were given their time to address the board. They spoke about social media and our teenagers and thanked the board for their time.

**Director of Maintenance: Brent DeFore - absent**

**Marseilles Education Association: Tracy Bianchi and Joelle Hallowell**

- Shared with the board the kindergarten students received their Scholastic books and were so excited. In STEM they are planting sunflowers
- Mrs. Bianchi shared they are planning the STEAM gala and have started their exploding volcanoes
- She also shared the excitement of next year's Washington DC trip

**Marseilles Educational Support Staff: Jennifer Morello**

- Had nothing to report

**Principal: Crystal Dvorak**

- Shared that MES had leprechauns in the building and left quite a mess and the students loved it
- Spring testing time is upon us - STAR 360, IAR, and ISA
- Preparing end of the year events such as a variety show, field day, STEAM gala, spring concerts and Junior high dances

**Superintendent: Brenda Donahue**

- Expressed how everyone is excited for the upcoming STEAM Gala - looking forward to having families back in the building the for event
- Reviewed and shared the news the Washington DC trip is growing with new students signing up every day
- Discussed the probability of getting a therapy dog for the district

- We are applying again the the 21st Century grant which will fund our after school program

**Treasurer's Report: Craig Hepner**

- The balance in the operating account as of February 28 was \$3.1 million
- Receipts for the month of February were slightly more than \$338K and included \$270K in general state aid and \$3,500 in investment income
- Expenditures in February were approximately \$643K.
- The yield on the CD investment portfolio as of February 28 was .551% which reflects a decline of 7 basis points from the yield at January 31. Higher rate CDs continue to mature and renew at lower rates.
- We have reached the bottom of the interest rate cycle as the Federal Reserve on March 16 raised its target rate for Fed Funds by .25% This is the first time since 2018 that the Fed has raised short-term interest rates. It appears that additional rate increases will be coming throughout the remainder of 2022 in response to current economic conditions. We are anticipating rate increase of at least 100 - 125 basis points by this time next year. In response to this, we will continue to deploy our current investment strategy of shortening terms on renewing CD investments in order to take advantage of rising rates. When we the top of the rate cycle, we will look to begin extending maturities in order to lock in the higher yields for longer periods of time.

**A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Byone to approve the consent agenda:**

- **6.01 Minutes of:**
  - **Regular Meeting – February 17, 2022**
- **6.02 Treasurer's Report**
- **6.03 Disbursements / Bills**
- **6.04 Deposits / Receipts**
- **6.05 Employee and/or Board Member professional development, travel expenditures and/or reimbursements**
- **6.06 Payroll**
- **6.07 Activity Fund Report**
- **6.08 Expenditure Budget Report**
- **6.09 Revenue Budget Report**
- **6.10 Destruction of Closed Meeting Audio Recordings and Approval of Closed Session Minutes: None**
- **6.11 Requests for District documents under the Freedom of Information Act: None**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, Kaminski, Miller and Morey**

**Nay: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Morey and seconded Byone to approve the employment of Bethany Haywood-Gama at MA Step B on the salary schedule beginning with the 2022-23 school year as ESL ( English as a Second Language) teacher.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, Kaminski, Miller, and Morey**

**Nay: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded Barnes to approve the employment of Stephanie Witalka at BA plus 15 Step F on the salary schedule beginning with the 2022-23 school year as learning behavior specialist.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, Kaminski, Miller, and Morey**

**Nay: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Carpenter to approve the granting of tenure of Jenni Giertz, Kelsey Granby, and Monica McGill beginning with the 2022-23 school year.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, Kaminski, Miller, and Morey**

**Nay: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Kaminski and seconded Carpenter to approve the Consolidated District Plan as required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, Kaminski, Miller, and Morey**

**Nay: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Barnes to consider the approval for the leave request under FMLA for Mrs. Melissa Stortz effective August 15, 2022 - October 3, 2022.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, Kaminski, Miller, and Morey**

**Nay: None**

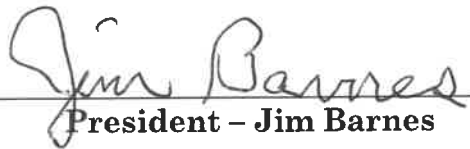
**Motion carried**

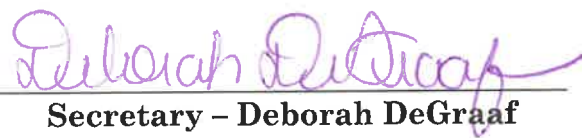
A motion was made by Morey and seconded Byone to adjourn the meeting at 7:01pm.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, Kaminski, Miller, and Morey

Nay: None

**Motion carried**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President - Jim Barnes

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary - Deborah DeGraaf