

**MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #150**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
201 Chicago Street  
Thursday, April 24, 2025  
7:00 pm  
Library

President Jim Barnes called the Marseilles Board of Education meeting to order at 7:01pm. Members answering roll call were President Jim Barnes, Cherise Byone, Christy Carpenter, Brad Miller and Julie Morey. The member absent with notice was Lawrence Cowie. Superintendent Brenda Donahue, Shawn Collins, Deb DeGraaf, Craig Hepner, Vicki Thomas, and Tim Misener were also in attendance.

Mr. Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Barnes asked Ms. DeGraaf if anyone had requested public comment. Ms. DeGraaf replied that no one had registered or requested to speak.

A motion was made by Byone and seconded by Morey to approve the unofficial canvassing results of the MES School Board Election by the LaSalle County Clerk's Office as follows: Christy Carpenter 185 votes, Bradley A Miller 176 votes, Julie Morey 171 votes, Bobby Kaminski 145 votes.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Barnes to adjourn this meeting *Sine Die*.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Byone and seconded by Morey to appoint Superintendent Brenda Donahue as President Pro Tem.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

**President Pro Tem accepts Board Resignation and Appoints (no vote necessary and conducts the Oath of Office for Board Members**

**A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Morey to elect Jim Barnes as the President of the MES School Board for a two-year term.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey and Thomas**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Barnes and seconded by Morey to elect Christy Carpenter as Vice-President of the MES School Board for a two-year term.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey. and Thomas**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Morey to appoint Deb DeGraaf as Secretary of the MES School Board.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Byone to appoint Craig Hepner as Treasurer of the MES School Board.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey and Thomas**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Morey to appoint Cherise Byone as a Governing Board Representative from April 2025 through April 2027.**

**Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carried**

**Marseilles Education Association: Tim Misener**

- **Shared grade level news:**

**Mrs. Bianchi reported that the STEAM Gala was a big success, with over 100 parents in attendance. She also mentioned that they are already planning the 2026 Washington, DC trip. The 8th grade enjoyed a relaxing and educational field trip to Nell's Woodland in Ottawa.**

**Principal: Shawn Collins**

- **STEAM Gala was last week and was well attended. So many great projects on display created by our students.**

- We have completed IAR testing and will be wrapping up 5th/8th grade science testing this week, with makeups next week.
- Summer Camp registrations have been sent to our MES families. We will extend the invite to neighboring schools next week!
- Mrs. Bianchi and several 8th-grade students traveled to Washington, DC over Spring Break! All reports were amazing! A meeting was held today for our next group that will be going next spring!
- 8th grade Celebration - organized by parents - has decided to take it off school grounds. It will be held on May 3rd at Fiesta on Main.
- 8th Grade Promotion will be held on Thursday, May 15, at 6 pm. We are requesting that all families request tickets to enter. Anyone without tickets will not be able to enter. This is done in an attempt to promote safety as well as a more enjoyable experience for our families.
- Track and Field is off and running....no pun intended. The weather has been challenging, like most years. Conference tournament this weekend

**Superintendent: Brenda Donahue**

- 8th grade Washington DC trip next year, is also over spring break
- The BASH fundraiser for the RISE program raised \$620. Thanks to everyone who supported - especially the owners of BASH for supporting us.
- The weekly meeting with ISBE regarding our school rating gave us a glowing review of our school.

**Treasurer's Report: Craig Hepner -**

- The balance in the operating account as of March 31 was \$1.84 million which represents a decrease of approximately \$294K from the balance at February 28.
- Receipts for the month of March were \$414K and included \$282K in general state aid and a little less than \$34K in investment income. Revenue is running about 6% ahead of budget year-to-date due primarily to the timing of real estate tax receipts.
- Expenditures in March were \$688K. Expenditures are running in line with budget for the year.
- The yield on the CD investment portfolio as of March 31 was 4.051%, which is about 2 basis points less than the yield at February 28.

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Byone to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 6.01 Minutes of:
  - Regular Meeting: March 20, 2025
- 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 Requests for District documents under the Freedom of Information Act: Requests for District documents under the Freedom of Information Act: Received on 3.18.2025 from McCready Law and responded to on 3.20.2025. Ten were received from ACB from 3.21.2025 through 4.1.2025 and responded to from 3.28.2025 through 4.7.2025.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas

Nay: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Morey to approve the following resignations: Robyn Graham (paraprofessional) , Clarisse Ruder (secretary), and Nathan Schaefer (maintenance).

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey and Thomas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Carpenter to approve the following transfer/hires pending appropriate licensure and passing of all background checks (if new): Braelan Rice (teacher), Tracy Tipple (special education teacher), Hannah Behning (secretary), Emily White (cheerleading), Ashley Barnes-Underwod (girls' basketball coach).

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Byone to approve the request for leave under FMLA for Emily Hardee, effective May 9, 2025.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Byone to approve the 2025 list of students to be promoted/placed from eighth grade at Marseilles Elementary School.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Carpenter to approve granting tenure of Mallory Martin, Sarah Manz, Amy Mino, Alex Piercece, and Tanya Thompson.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Byone to approve the local District Literacy Plan.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Morey to approve a compensation agreement /contracts for all employees not under a Collective Bargaining Agreement or personal contract and sub rates.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Carpenter to adjourn the meeting at 737pm.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Miller, Morey, and Thomas

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

  
President – Jim Barnes

  
Secretary – Deborah DeGraaf