

MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #150
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
201 Chicago Street
Thursday, August 21, 2025
7:00 pm
Library

President Jim Barnes called the Marseilles Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members answering roll call were President Jim Barnes, Christy Carpenter, Lawrence Cowie, Brad Miller, Julie Morey, and Vicki Thomas. The member absent without notice was Cherise Byone. Superintendent Brenda Donahue, Shawn Collins, Deb DeGraaf, Craig Hepner, and Paula Wheeler 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.

Maintenance: Brent DeFore

- Updated the board on the roofing project after the ROE mandated an architect for the project. They are requiring the insulation not to be an average of R30, but an overall R30-rated insulation factor. Now, we have to re-bid, and it will cost the district an exorbitant amount of money.

Marseilles Education Association: Tim Misener and Paula Wheeler

- Shared how appreciative teachers were of the extra time in classrooms before school started
- School began, and they are teaching and reminding them of the RISE expectations.
- Fourth and Fifth-grade teachers appreciated the planners

Superintendent: Brenda Donahue

- Reported MES had a great but busy three days, even without power. Slow registration results might be forcing us to reconsider a registration day where parents are in the building during a designated time to complete registration with our assistance.
- Shared and explained IAR information and how the Public Act 103 Children's Adversity Index affects our community.

Principal: Shawn Collins

- Summer camps were well attended, and ESY was beneficial to our learners
- Unpack Backpack / Curriculum Night last Wednesday - very well attended

- Opening Day included breakfast, admin welcome, CPI (de-escalation training), and teacher work time
- The 2nd and 3rd Institute days were filled with teacher work time, Epilepsy Training, a teacher lemonade stand, and Goody Butter Cake made by yours truly to celebrate National Goody Butter Cake Day. Admin is always looking for ways to share appreciation for our staff.
- We welcomed several new teachers: (2) second grade, (1) third grade, (1) fourth grade, (1) fifth grade, (2) special education, (1) ESL teacher, librarian, ROE mentor, and 2 student teachers: 4th grade Schomas and PE Lindstrom
- Pre-School starts Monday!
- Pre-school screenings took place early this week
- Fall STAR 360 Testing has begun this week for grades 1-8. Mid September we will dive into Data Team meetings
- Baseball Season is underway, and the team is very young, losing many 8th graders from last year.
- To date, we have 485 students registered in Kindergarten-8th grade. This is down 30 students from the same time last year.
 - Our largest class has 60 students enrolled - 1st grade
 - Our smallest class has 48 students enrolled - 8th grade

Treasurer's Report: Craig Hepner

- The balance in the operating account as of July 31 was \$931K, which represents a decrease of approximately \$355K from the balance at June 30.
- Receipts for the month of July were \$676K and included \$393K in real estate tax receipts, \$63K in Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax, and \$38K in investment income. Revenue is running in line with the budget year-to-date through the first month of the new fiscal year.
- Expenditures in July were \$1.01 million. There were two large expenditures in July. One was the annual insurance premium payment of just over \$142K, and the other was the purchase of a new bus for \$160K. As a result, expenditures are running about 3% over budget for the year due to timing.
- The yield on the CD investment portfolio as of July 31 was 3.99% which is down 2 basis points from the yield at June 30.

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Carpenter to approve the consent agenda.

Aye: Barnes, Carpenter, Cowie, Miller, Morey, and Thomas.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Thomas to approve the following resignations: Samantha DeGraaf (special education teacher), Cheri Pellino (secretary), and Lexia Severson (paraprofessional).

Aye: Barnes, Carpenter, Cowie, Miller, Morey, and Thomas.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Morey to approve the following transfers/hires pending appropriate licensure and passing of all background checks (if new): Tammy Reddick (from first floor custodian at 29 hours to second floor custodian at 15 hours), Olivia Peterson (ESL teacher), Christian Honn (7th & 8th grade boys basketball coach), and Emilee Sharisky (secretary).

Aye: Barnes, Carpenter, Cowie, Miller, Morey, and Thomas.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Thomas to approve the second ready of Press Issue 119.

Aye: Barnes, Carpenter, Cowie, Miller, Morey, and Thomas.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Barnes to approve the placement of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget on display for 30 days.

Aye: Barnes, Carpenter, Cowie, Miller, Morey, and Thomas.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

Board reviewed Policy 5.90 Mandated Reporters and Bullying Policy 7.180

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Morey to approve the FMLA from Ryan Clark.

Aye: Barnes, Carpenter, Cowie, Miller, Morey, and Thomas.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Morey to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm.

Aye: Barnes, Carpenter, Cowie, Miller, Morey, and Thomas.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried


President – Jim Barnes


Secretary – Deborah DeGraaf