

MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #150
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
201 Chicago Street
Thursday, September 25, 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, Brad Miller, Julie Morey, and Vicki Thomas. The members absent with notice were Cherise Byone and Lawrence Cowie. Superintendent Brenda Donahue, Shawn Collins, Deb DeGraaf, Craig Hepner, Tim Misener, 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 was absent

Marseilles Education Association: Tim Misener and Paula Wheeler

- Shared their appreciation for the baked good shared by the staff for the PTA fundraiser, and the first field trip of the year, 2nd grade took to Shabbonna Conservation Center.
- 6th grade is working on figurative language skills
- 8th grade is learning coding in STEM

Superintendent: Brenda Donahue

- The LaSalle County Assessor has retired, and in turn, the EAV is delayed.
- Bill Newkirk let us know the State hasn't shared what he needs to complete the Audit. His presentation is delayed.
- MES received phenomenal news of 100% on Special Education State Monitoring. It's been a goal for 11 years.

Principal: Shawn Collins

- Fall testing and Data Team meetings have taken place. Intervention groups have been adjusted and we anticipate winter testing to see our growth in action.
- Had a great Professional Development opportunity for the teachers and paras on September 12 - Gerry Brooks - Culture and Climate.
- Mrs. Bianchi is busy planning our next trip to Washington DC for our 8th graders

- Baseball season ended sadly without any wins....a very young team this year
- Girls basketball is underway. Only one team at the 7th/8th grade team level with 6th grade students playing up on the team.
- Friday, October 10, is County-Wide Institute Day with options for virtual and in-person Professional Development. Always a great opportunity to learn more tools to use in our classrooms.
- October 17 is the end of the first quarter, and parent/teacher conferences roll in shortly after.

Treasurer's Report: Craig Hepner

- The balance in the operating account as of August 31 was \$2.01 million, which represents an increase of \$1.08 million from the balance at July 31.
- Receipts for the month of August were \$1.62 million and included \$1.07 million in real estate tax receipts, \$296K in General State Aid, and \$37.4K in investment income. Revenue is running about 11% over budget year-to-date through the first two months of the fiscal year due to the timing of real estate tax receipts.
- Expenditures in August were \$586K. Expenditures are running in line with budget for the fiscal year.
- The yield on the CD investment portfolio as of August 31 was 3.95% which is down 4 basis points from the yield at July 31.

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Carpenter to approve the following resignations: Steve Parker (wrestling coach).

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Thomas to approve the following transfers/hires pending appropriate licensure and passing of all background checks (if new): Tammy Reddick (lunchroom aide), Rachel Rojas (lunchroom aide), Nanishka Torris (29-hour custodial position), Justin Hunt (5th/6th grade boys basketball coach).

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Thomas to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Barnes to approve the renewal of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois medical and dental rates.

Aye: Barnes, 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 715pm.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried


President – Jim Barnes


Secretary – Deborah DeGraaf