

MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #150
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
201 Chicago Street
Thursday, December 18, 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, Cherise Byone, Christy Carpenter, Lawrence Cowie, Brad Miller, Julie Morey, and Vicki Thomas. Superintendent Brenda Donahue, Lindsey Johnson, Deb DeGraaf, Craig Hepner, Brent DeFore, 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

- December 4 was the bid meeting with 6 bidders in attendance. Our architect explained that we must accept the lowest bid. Brent informed the board that the winning bidder is a union company.

Marseilles Education Association: Paula Wheeler

- Shared with the board grade level news: 2nd grade is enjoying “no tech Tuesdays,” where they focus without screens with partners and problem-solving skills, 1st grade made ornaments for the tree at their business Boomin’ Vinyl, and 4th grade had fun at their annual Ugly Sweater Red Carpet.

Ass’t Principal: Lindsey Johnson

- Shared the Winter program is tomorrow, the Christmas tree competition was in full swing with 3rd grade currently in the lead, PTA will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new book vending machine, there’s a pizza fundraiser benefiting the Washington DC trip, and she updated on sports underway.

Superintendent: Brenda Donahue

- Shared that our PAWS students will be participating in a basketball event at Wallace Grade School on Saturday, January 10th, and extended the invitation to the board members, the City water test results came in after the five samples were collected, the winter benchmark date from ISBE,

and the PSIC meeting was in Springfield - she attended virtually.

Treasurer's Report: Craig Hepner

- The balance in the operating account as of November 30 was \$2.19 million, which represents an increase of \$373K from the balance at October 31.
- Receipts for the month of November were slightly less than \$390K and included \$296K in General State Aid and \$34.2K in Interest Income. Revenue is running about 14% over budget year-to-date through the first five months of the fiscal year due to the timing of real estate tax receipts.
- Expenditures in November were slightly less than \$746K. Expenditures are running about 3% under budget through the first five months of the year.
- The yield on the CD investment portfolio as of November 30 was 3.89%, which is about 4 basis points lower than the yield at October 31.

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Byone to approve and agree to place on file the annual audit and annual financial reports

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Carpenter to approve the following transfers/hires pending appropriate licensure and passing of all background checks (if new): Nate Schaefer (wrestling coach).

Aye: Barnes, Byone, 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 request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act for Mrs. Kenzie Frank (nurse).

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Byone to approve the 2025 tax levy (FY27)

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Byone and seconded by Thomas to approve the second reading of the Press Plus Policy 120.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Carpenter to approved to adopt the Separation Agreement and Release of Claims with Shawn Collins.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Byone to accept the bid of \$231,500 from R.B. Crowther Company for the roof project.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, 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 7:28 pm.


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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried


President – Jim Barnes


Secretary – Deborah DeGraaf