

**MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #150  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
201 Chicago Street  
Thursday, January 22, 2026  
7:00 pm  
Library**

President Jim Barnes called the Marseilles Board of Education meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Members answering roll call were President Jim Barnes, Lawrence Cowie, Brad Miller, Julie Morey, and Vicki Thomas. Cherise Byone and Christy Carpenter were absent without notice. Superintendent Brenda Donahue, Deb DeGraaf, Craig Hepner, Brent DeFore, Tim Misener, and Paula Wheeler were also in attendance.

Mr. Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Donahue presented the G.R.I.T. awards to the winning MES students.

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**

- Reported the contracts for the roof repair were signed.

**Marseilles Education Association: Tim Misener and Paula Wheeler**

- Shared 2nd grade is working with AG in the Classroom through the Polinator's Grant, PAWS 1.5 will be participating in the IL Valley All Star Basketball event on Saturday, February 28, and Mrs. Bianchi is wrapping up this year's Washington DC trip.

**Interim Principal: Lindsey Johnson - absent**

**Superintendent: Brenda Donahue (also reported for Mrs. Johnson)**

- Shared 42 students were chosen to participate in receiving a new book from our PTA-sponsored Book Vending Machine.
- The 8th Boys Basketball Regionals are this upcoming weekend
- Volleyball season is in full swing with Lupus night tonight in support of a recently diagnosed student/player.
- The Auditor Bill Newkir's letter explained that our 4.0 might drop to a 3.6.

**Treasurer's Report: Craig Hepner**

- The balance in the operating account as of December 31 was \$2.03 million, which represents a decrease of \$159K from the balance at November 30.
- Receipts for the month of December were slightly less than \$559K and included \$296K in General State Aid, \$86K in real estate tax receipts, and \$33.3K in Interest Income. Revenue is running about 12.5% over budget year-to-date through the first six months of the fiscal year due to the timing of real estate tax receipts. We have collected nearly 100% of the budgeted real estate tax revenue for the year.
- Expenditures in December were \$700K. Expenditures are running about 3.5% under budget through the first six months of the year.
- The yield on the CD investment portfolio as of December 31 was 3.89%, which is about 7 basis points lower than the yield at November 30. Yields on the investment portfolio continue to pull back in light of the decline of short-term interest rates that began in the latter part of 2024, and this trend will likely continue as we move forward.

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Barnes to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Cowie questioned the minutes and how Mr. DeFore's report was recorded in the minutes. Mrs. DeGraaf answered that it was written as Mr. DeFore spoke. Mr. DeFore reiterated that it is correct as he said it. As Mr. Cowie stated, what Mr. DeFore said wasn't legally correct. Mrs. Donahue asked if Mr. DeFore wanted the minute amended, and he declined.

**Aye: Barnes, 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 transfers/hires pending appropriate licensure and passing of all background checks (if new): Veronica Williams as dishwasher.

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

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carried**

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Thomas to approve the standard mileage rate for reimbursement at 72.5 cents per mile.

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

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carried**

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Barnes to approve the addendum to the assistant principal contract.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

Right before adjournment at 7:20 pm, Mr. Cowie asked to discuss a few things. For 36 minutes, Mr. Cowie asked questions and/or made statements that were attempted to be answered/commented on by Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Morey, Mrs. Donahue, Mrs. DeGraaf, Mrs. Wheeler, and Mr. Misener.

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

  
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President – Jim Barnes

  
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Secretary – Deborah DeGraaf