

**MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #150**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
201 Chicago Street  
Thursday, March 19, 2026 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, Julie Morey, and Vicki Thomas. Brad Miller was absent with notice. Superintendent Brenda Donahue, Lindsey Johnson, Deb DeGraaf, Craig Hepner, Paula Wheeler, and Brent DeFore 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, he only had one item to talk about, and that was that the big gym is going through a power audit with the hope of getting the lights replaced. It's a free program from Ameren, so we are taking a chance to see if we qualify.

**Marseilles Education Association: Paula Wheeler**

- Gave a grade level update: 2nd Grade Pierce is rocking phonics and foundations, 4th Grade is reading a novel, then students will work together collaborating on the reports digitally.
- MES staff is donating items for the Marseilles Food Pantry, and the staff is donating raffle baskets to the PTA events. Bingo with a Buddy is the next upcoming event.

**Interim Principal: Lindsey Johnson**

- Reported next week for 6th-8th grade is IAR testing. 3rd through 5th-grade test after spring break. We are grateful that PTA is donating snacks and mints throughout the testing time.
- 8th-grade students and Traci Bianchi are going to Washington DC over spring break.
- March 27th is the end of the 3rd quarter.
- Track is underway with 40-50 students participating.

**Superintendent: Brenda Donahue**

- It's the season to keep an eye on House bills that affect schools. One of them is changing the law for support staff to draw unemployment during breaks and in the summer. If such a bill

were to pass, it could cost the district for about 12 weeks, approximately \$250,000. There's also a bill banning students' cell phones in school.

**Treasurer's Report: Craig Hepner**

- The balance in the operating account as of February 28 was \$1.57 million, which represents a decrease of \$444K from the balance at January 31.
- Receipts for the month of February were slightly less than \$383K and included \$296K in General State Aid and \$32K in Interest Income. Revenue is running about 10% over budget year-to-date through the first eight months of the fiscal year due primarily to the timing of real estate tax receipts.
- Expenditures in February were \$811K. Expenditures are running about 4% under budget through the first eight months of the year.
- The yield on the CD investment portfolio as of February 28 was 3.54%, which is about 10 basis points lower than the yield at January 31. 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 Byone and seconded by Carpenter to approve the consent agenda.

Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, 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): Terrie Reedy-Pine and Jessica Smith (track coaches).

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Thomas to approve the following resignations: Emily White (5th/6th cheer coach), Ramon Cuartela (music teacher), and Elizabeth Franzen (3rd grade).

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Barnes and seconded by Morey to approve the FY27 Consolidated District Plan as required by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Byone to approve continuing to use a Schoolwide Program vs a Target Program for Title funds.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Carpenter to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Byone to approve the policy review and update to policy number 6:170 - Parent and Family Engagement

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Byone and seconded by Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm.


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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

  
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President - Jim Barnes

  
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Secretary - Deborah DeGraaf