

MARSEILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #150
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
201 Chicago Street
Thursday, September 24, 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. Superintendent Brenda Donahue, Lindsey Johnson, Mary Kay Kavanaugh, 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

- Informed the Board that the kindergarten roof is done. We will issue the final check when we receive the 20-year manufacturer's warranty.

Marseilles Education Association: Paula Wheeler & Tim Misener

- Reported on grade-level events: 2nd Grade is working on the sunshine project where they are learning about goal setting and connecting children and staff.

Interim Principal: Lindsey Johnson

- Shared that we have a great start to the new school year! Enrollment is 533, and attendance is off to a good start at 95%.
- Fall Benchmark window has closed, and we will review data and report what we find.
- Fire drills for the school year are all done. At the last drill, we evacuated the building in one minute.
- A few dates to remember: 9.28.2026 is the Culvers fundraiser to support sports, 10.09.2026 is Teacher Institute day, and 10.10.02026 is the PTA Chicken Fry.

Superintendent: Brenda Donahue

- Reviewed our drought data with the ECCRA State Representative, and we met and exceeded our expectations.
- Per the Auditor, the federal report hasn't been released, so they can wrap up our audit. He can't submit our audit until the federal government releases that information.

- Discussed that this is the last year for the Building Maintenance Grant, and we will review what space needs modernization in our building to use the \$50,000 matching grant money

Treasurer's Report: Craig Hepner

- The balance in the operating account as of August 31 was slightly more than \$1.7 million, which represents an increase of \$1.3 million from the balance at July 31.
- Receipts for the month of August were \$1.93 million and included slightly more than \$1.3 million in Real Estate Tax receipts from LaSalle County, 310K in general state aid, \$20K in Corporate Property Replacement Tax, and slightly less than \$32K in Interest
- Income. Revenue is running about 10.5% over budget through the first two months of the fiscal year due to the timing of real estate tax revenue.
- Expenditures in August were \$589K. Expenditures are running about 2.5% under budget through the first two months of the year.
- The yield on the CD investment portfolio as of August 31 was 3.43%, which represents a decline of about 3 basis points from the yield as of July 31.

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Thomas 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 Carpenter to approve the following transfers/hire pending appropriate licensure and passing of all background checks (if new): Nicole Wickersham (yearbook club sponsor).

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 requests for FMLA from Kaelyn Rodriguez and Tracy Bianchi.

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 26-27 calendar amendment.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Carpenter and seconded by Thomas to approve the second reading of Press Policy Issue 122.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

A motion was made by Morey and seconded by Barnes to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

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 accept the resignation of Board member Brad Miller.

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 adjourn the meeting.

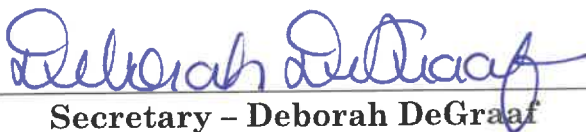
Aye: Barnes, Byone, Carpenter, Cowie, Morey, and Thomas.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried


President – Jim Barnes


Secretary – Deborah DeGraaf