

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2026

Minutes of the Maine Township High School District 207 Regular Board of Education Meeting held at Maine West High School at 6:00 p.m. on March 2, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Eicker
Kelly Foersterling
Maureen Hartwig
Rebecca Heneghan
Dana Jaime
Dean Patras (6:45 p.m. by phone)
Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

OTHERS PRESENT

Tatiana Bonuma
Mary Kalou
Shawn Messmer
George Dagres
Katie Di Sanza
Eileen McMahon
Melissa Pikul
Antwan Babakhani
Brett Clark
Ginny Edwards

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Yousuf-Abramson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Board Secretary called the roll.

2. 207'S BEST FOR CAREER EXPLORATION

A. Ingrid Berki - Maine South

Dr. Babakhani introduced Ingrid Berki as South's 207's Best for Career Exploration. Dr. Babakhani describes Ingrid as a motivated and driven student with a strong work ethic who constantly strives for excellence, approaching opportunities with purpose and dedication. Ingrid is in the CNA program and is volunteering and interning in the postpartum unit at Lutheran General Hospital where she cares for mothers and newborns. In addition to excelling in Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy, Intro to Healthcare, and Medical Terminology, Ingrid is a member of NHS, Social Science and English NHS, HOSA Future Health Professionals and volleyball. Her teachers add that she is kind, intelligent, collaborative and positive. Ingrid introduced her parents, godparents and friends and plans to attend nursing school at Loyola University.

B. Joshua Potts - Maine East

Dr. Pikul introduced Joshua Potts as East's 207's Best for Career Exploration. Dr. Pikul began by saying that Joshua exemplifies being a kind, polite, motivated, thoughtful, adaptable and forward-thinking student. Joshua has explored multiple career treks including plumbing fundamentals, electrical basics and equipment installation techniques through hands-on experience at ABT Electronics, as well as authentic experiences in the Plumbers Bridge Program. In addition, Joshua has taken courses in Autos, Cybersecurity, Culinary, Introductory Business, Marketing and Building Trades. Joshua participated in the Schuler Scholar Program, and is a leader on the track team. Joshua introduced his parents, thanked them for their support, and plans to study in the electrical field with the goal of starting a business.

C. Dalesha Jeanty - Maine West

Dr. McMahon introduced Dalesha Jeanty as West's 207's Best for Career Exploration. Dr. McMahon noted that Dalesha is an intern in District 207's Communications Department, making an impact by posting on social media, writing news

releases, and contributing to special projects. Dalesha is positive, creative, informed, kind, and quietly leads by example. Dalesha has taken Digital Art, Intro to Business, Interpersonal Relationships, English II Accelerated, and is a member of the National English Honor Society. Dalesha was chosen to publicize a poster she designed for a Fine Arts Showcase and was the go-to designer creating flyers for bake sales and club events. Her teachers add that she is a joy to be around. Dalesha introduced her family and plans to study at Oakton for graphic design and transfer to NEIU for her bachelors.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Update from Superintendent

1. Student Recognition

District 207 has begun a new tradition of celebrating students outside of the classroom for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, celebrating the whole student experience. Dr. Bonuma thanked staff, parents and guardians for their partnership and extended her thanks to all who attended this evening.

Dr. Bonuma introduced the building principals; Dr. Pikul, Dr. Babakhani and Dr. McMahon who presented certificates for perfect ACTs, National Merit Semifinalists, and National Merit Commended Students. Dr. McMahon explained that a perfect ACT score represents the highest composite score of 36 in the four subject areas of English, Math, Reading, and Science. Fewer than 0.25% - 0.33% students accomplish this of the nearly 1.5 million tests taken annually. Students this year with a perfect ACT are: Grace Brander, Luke Compton, Domenic Conversa, Alex Davidov, Irene Do, Sam Farquhar, Katherine Foley, David Mazurek, Paige Spychalski and Lawson Wetendorf.

Dr. Pikul noted nearly 1.6 million students test annually as juniors for the National Merit Scholarship Program with approximately 2% being honored as commended and only 15,000 nationwide as National Merit Finalists. This year's commended students are: Kaia Bechtold, Audrey Becker, Elle Cho, Irene Do, Sam Farquhar, Christian Hamielec, Alex Jerome, Seehyun Larson, Nick Moigradan, Tahreem Sayed, Krislinda Silo, Michael Tuebo, Nina Volpe and Brian Weiss. This year's finalists are: Luke Compton, Domenic Conversa, Katherine Foley, Kai Trivedi and Lawson Wetendorf.

Maine West Fine Arts Department Chair Ms. Jennifer Mullen noted the Illinois All-State Theatre Festival is the highest honor for musicians in the State. Maine West Drama teachers Mr. David Harmon and Ms. Linnea Grooms and theatre technician Mr. Peter McManus introduced the students being honored for the All-State production of Newsies. Receiving these honors are Mateo Cruz, Ray Copeland and Meira Reid.

Maine South Fine Arts Department Chair Ms. Teralyn Keith described the Illinois All-State Music Festival as the highest level of musical achievement for high school students in the State. Ms. Keith introduced Maine East Choir Teacher Ms. Kate Lee, Maine South Choir Teacher Mr. Matthew Hanes, and Maine West Choir Teacher Ms. Stephanie Herrera, who named the students being honored for All-State festival awards: Emma Erickson, Rose Hassman, Christopher Lawpattanapong, Clark Lindner, Efi Malliaras, Reed Maurer, Aleksandra Nawrocki, Nathan O'Brien, Jared Perez, Meira Ried, Isabella Roszko, Peter Sagmeister, Ramona Schroer, Hannah Seol, Zchelynmer Van Narbaja Gamboa and Audrey Wilson.

Maine South Special Education Department Chair Ms. Laurel Grogger and Special Education Teacher Ms. Michelle Dwyer introduced the outstanding Special Olympics athletes who are being honored tonight: Chloe Brown, Mica Brown, Neilan Durdov, Sarah Ellison, Simone Harris, Joey Koziol, Luis Miranda, Audrey Ness, Isaac Spiewak and Peter Spiewak.

Maine West Athletic Director Mr. Darrell Mathis, and Maine West Counselor and Soccer Coach Mr. Eliades Hernandez introduced Maine West All-State soccer athlete Bryan Romero.

Maine West Fine Arts Chair, Ms. Sarah Djordjevic, Maine East Art Teacher Ms. Magdalene Eisenberg, Maine South Art Teacher Ms. Megan Kelly and Maine West Art Teacher Ms. Felicia Lahart presented the Scholastic Arts Awards, a prestigious high level regional program honoring the top 7-10% of entries and include Silver Key Awards to Humeryra Ada, Helen Alejandre, Ariana Arzola, Akylai Baatyrbekova, Patrice Beldia, Marie Castillo, Sophia Cherone, Alaina

Fracek, Viviana Gonzalez, Abby Gomez Tello Urias, Delaney Kroschel, Dana Maletina, Elisa Murillo and Gwyneth Van Huis; Gold Key Awards to Ella Faulkner, Alaina Fracek, Julia Majka, Amie Mantilla, Ashley Schreyer-Miller, and Maia Taraszka; and American Visions nominee, Lance Lukose.

Dr. Bonuma closed out the ceremony by congratulating all of the students on their honors and thanking all families and friends for their support and attending tonight's celebration.

B. Updates from Board Members

Board President Dr. Sheila Yousuf-Abramson mentioned the upcoming Maine Township High School Foundation fundraiser event on April 15, 2026 at Fountain Blue Restaurant in Des Plaines.

C. Attendance Update

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Ms. Katie Di Sanza updated the Board on the District attendance initiative, Every Day Counts/Attendance Matters. There is a lot to celebrate! The District has seen increases in average daily attendance with more students meeting the 95% attendance target. January's snapshot shows 11.97% more students reached the 95% attendance target this year over last. There has also been a decrease in chronic absenteeism. The tardy turnaround shows a reduction in tardies over last year by 46.7% for East, 55.8% at South and 28.1% at West. All of these improvements have had a positive impact on student success.

D.Strategic Plan Update

Director of Communications Mr. Brett Clark, presented to the Board the monthly update on the District's strategic plan. We are currently in phase IV of each of the strategic plans, making some grammatical changes to provide clear communication of our vision of an inclusive community that supports all students to learn, grow and thrive. This process has resonated well with all stakeholder groups. We are getting close to the final, "Portrait of a Graduate" and finalizing overall goals based on stakeholder feedback. Next steps are to further develop the strategies and activities for each strategy for year one. The final strategic plan will go to the Board for approval on May 4, 2026 and will be implemented in the fall of 2026.

E. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. MONTHLY STATUS OF FINANCES

A. Monthly Finance Report - January 2026

Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Kalou updated the Board on the District financials for January 2026. Revenues are increasing as property taxes have been rolling in. Spring tax bills are also being sent out this week. Expenses are in line with budget and previous years.

5. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No reports this month.

6. OTHER ITEMS

A. Monthly update on FOIA requests for February 2026

There were eighteen FOIA requests for February 2026 and they have been responded to or are in process. The District has seen an increase in FOIA requests in recent months which is happening across the state.

*7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES APPROVED - FEBRUARY 2, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

B. BOARD BILLS - FEBRUARY 2026 TOTALING \$2,464,480.85

Fund Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207: \$2,306,305.44
ED-RED 13,523.08
NSERVE: 144,652.33

C. PAYROLLS - FEBRUARY 2026

Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207: \$10,587,569.18
ED-RED 22,305.78
NSERVE: 20,617.60

D. STUDENT ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURES - JANUARY 2026

E. SCHOOL GIFTS

1. Brenda Cora - \$500.00 - Maine East Girls Track Team
2. Maine East Athletic Boosters - \$597.00 - Maine East Track and Football Coaches Conference Fees
3. MTHS Foundation - \$800.00 - Maine East Skills USA State Competition Costs
4. MTHS Foundation - \$1,600.00 - Maine West Writers Block Event Authors Honoraria
5. MTHS Foundation - \$1,260.00 - Maine East French 2 Field Trip to Alliance Francaise
6. MTHS Foundation - \$1200.00 - Transportation for Maine East AP Psych Trip to Lincoln Park Zoo
7. Roxanne Smith, West Class of 1970 - \$1,000.00 - Maine West Alumni Scholarship Fund
8. Marissa Panganiban, West Class of 2000 - \$1,050.35 - Maine West Alumni Scholarship Fund
9. MTHS Foundation - \$1,800.00 - Supporting the 2026 Inspira Summit at Maine West
10. MTHS Foundation - \$1,400.00 - Maine West Skills USA State Championship Costs
11. Maine West Fine Arts Boosters - \$769.00 - Ableton Push 3 Controller for Recording Studio

F. OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRIPS

1. Maine South Key Club - Crowne Plaza Hotel - Springfield, IL - February 20-22, 2026
2. Maine East - IL Career Development Conference - Hyatt Regency - Rosemont - March 5-7, 2026
3. Maine East - HOSA State Conference - Springfield, IL - March 18-26, 2026
4. Maine West - HOSA State Conference - Springfield, IL - March 18-26, 2026
5. Maine South - IHSA Chess State Tournament - Peoria, IL - February 12-14, 2026
6. Maine South Educational Trip to Italy - Spring break 2027
7. Maine East Skills USA State Competition - Peoria, IL - April 23-25, 2026
8. Maine South FCCLA State Competition - Springfield, IL - April 8-10, 2026
9. Maine South Educational Trip to Germany and Austria - March 19-27, 2027
10. Maine South Skills USA State Competition - Peoria, IL - April 23-25, 2027
11. Maine West Mock Trail State Tournament - Springfield, IL - March 13-15, 2026
12. Maine West FCCLA State Competition - Springfield, IL - April 8-10, 2026
13. Maine West Skills USA State Competition - Peoria, IL - April 23-25, 2026

14. Maine West DECA - Atlanta, GA - April 25-29, 2026

15. Maine East Wrestling State Tournament - Springfield, IL - March 13-15, 2026

Motion on 7A-F by Ed Eicker, second by Rebecca Heneghan

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*8. TEXTBOOKS - 2ND READING

Motion to approve new textbooks for the 2026-2027 school year.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Innovation Dr. Shawn Messmer noted the textbook is a novel adoption and was written by a Maine West graduate.

Motion by Dana Jaime, second by Kelly Foersterling

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*9. AMENDED SCHOOL CALENDAR

Motion to approve the amended school calendar for 2026-2027.

The adjustment to the school calendar involves moving an institute day. The changes do not conflict with our partner districts.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dana Jaime

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*10. APPROVAL OF BIDS AND AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

A. Maine East Freight Elevator Rebuild

1. Reject Mid American Elevator Bid - \$314,880.00
2. Award Contract to D. Kersey Construction - \$404,420.00

Motion to reject the bid with Mid American and approve a contract with D. Kersey Construction for elevator rebuild at Maine East in the amount of \$404,420.00.

During scope review, Mid American did not consider the \$80,000.00 contingency. The second lowest bidder is D. Kersey. The District has worked with D. Kersey and their bid came in below the \$500,000.00 budget.

Motion by Rebecca Heneghan, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

B. IGA - Park Ridge Park District - Fireworks Event at Maine East

Motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park Ridge Park District for the annual fireworks event at Maine East High School.

This annual event is held on July 3rd at Maine East. The agreement outlines the responsibilities for both the Park District and District 207.

Motion by Dana Jaime, second by Kelly Foersterling

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

C. Facility Waiver Request - Park Ridge Stage School - \$2,720.00

Motion to approve a partial facility waiver request with Park Ridge Stage School in the amount of \$2,720.00.

The request provides a reciprocal agreement allowing Maine East the use of costumes and staging from the Park Ridge Stage School.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Kelly Foersterling

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

D. Reed Construction - Phase II Security Project - District 207

Motion to approve a contract with Reed Construction for Phase II Security projects in the amount of \$2,164,709.00 for Maine East, \$2,175,000.00 for Maine South, and \$1,935,000.00 for Maine West.

The District received one bid from Reed Construction. The volume of electrical work is extensive. Reed Construction did this work for the District last summer and the District was pleased.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Maureen Hartwig

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

E. IGA - North Cook Alternative Programs

Motion to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with North Cook Intermediate Service Center for alternative education programs

Assistant Superintendent for Student and Family Services Ms. Katie Di Sanza noted this annual agreement is entered into for alternative education programs for our District students on an as needed basis. North Cook offers a good alternative program and is moving to a larger facility in Mount Prospect to meet the demand.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Maureen Hartwig

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*11. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Student Personnel
- B. Review of Closed Session Minutes
- C. Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees
- D. Probable, Imminent or Pending Litigation
- E. Collective Negotiating Matters
- F. Other Permitted Topics Under the Open Meetings Act

Motion to enter into Closed Session at 7:13 p.m. for the purpose of discussion on Student Personnel, Review of Closed Session Minutes, Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Probable, Imminent or Pending Litigation, Collective Negotiating Matters and Other Permitted Topics Under the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Maureen Hartwig, second by Kelly Foersterling

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to return to Open Session at 8:21 p.m.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dana Jaime

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*13. PERSONNEL ACTION

A. Administrator Appointment

Patrick Chambers - Instructional Supervisor ELS - District 207 (new position)

Start Date: July 1, 2026, Salary: \$143,000.00

Brian Packowitz - Associate Principal Student Supports (12-month) - Maine West - (new position)

Start Date: July 1, 2026, Salary: \$175,000.00

Erik Westerberg - Associate Principal Student Supports (12-month) - Maine East - (new position)

Start Date: July 1, 2026, Lateral position change

B. Certified Staff Appointment

Jessica Chowanec - Science Teacher - District 207

Start Date: August 10, 2026, Salary: \$75,539.00

Colleen Hatch - English Lead Teacher Long Term Substitute - Maine South

Start Date: February 10, 2026, temporary replacement JC

Robin Kahn - School Psychologist - Maine South (replaces VK)

Start Date: August 10, 2026, Salary: \$92,552.00

Don Kura - Social Science Lead Teacher - Maine South (new position)

Start Date: August 4, 2026, internal hire

Anthony Manicke - Health and Wellness Teacher - Maine East (replaces CH)

Start Date: August 10, 2026, Salary: \$77,298.00

Claire Neuberger - Math Teacher - District 207

Start Date: August 10, 2026, Salary: \$88,155.00

Chantel Smith - Social Worker - Maine East (replaces JR)

Start Date: August 10, 2026 - \$85,588.00

Noemi Terrazas - School Counselor - Maine South (replaces ES)

Start Date: August 10, 2026, Salary: \$99,219.00

Stephanie Tadda - Social Science Teacher - Maine South (replaces DM)

Start Date: August 10, 2026, Salary: \$74,239.00

Emily Waters - Special Education Compliance Coordinator - Maine South (replaces HB)

Start Date: August 10, 2026 - Lateral position change

C. Support Staff Appointment

Thomas Bazarek - 10-month Security Guard - Maine East - (replaces CM)

Start Date: February 17, 2026, Salary: \$30,680.63

Philip Husar - Custodian - Maine East (replaces RR)

Start Date: February 9, 2026, Salary: \$48,894.55

Annery Wilczynski - 10-month Administrative Assistant - Maine South (replaces MG)

Start Date: February 19, 2026, Salary: \$40,525.56

D. Certified Resignation:

Noor Alkhawaja - English Teacher - Maine West

Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Kacey Carpenter - Math Teacher - Maine West

Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Julia Dixon - School Psychologist - Maine East

Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Juana Liscovitz - Special Education Teacher - Maine East

Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Angel Macias - Math Teacher - Maine South

Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Lauren Olson - Assistant Principal Student Supports - Maine South

Resignation effective June 8, 2026

Syed Quadri - Science Teacher - Maine East

Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Ricardo Ramirez - Math Teacher - Maine East

Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Mark Wesoloskie - CTE Teacher - Maine East

Resignation effective May 28, 2026

E. Support Staff Resignation

Bridget Byrnes - Program Systems Manager - District 207

Resignation effective March 10, 2026

F. Substitute Dismissal

Azin Najafabadi - Daily Substitute - District 207
Dismissal effective
Motion to approve personnel items 14A-G

G. Certified Staff Request for Leave of Absence

Stephanie Simon - Math Teacher - Maine South
Requesting a leave of absence for the 2026-2027 school year

Motion on 13A-G including the dismissal of substitute teacher Azin Najafabadi by Maureen Hartwig, second by Dana Jaime
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson
Nay: None

*14. STAFFING

There was no action taken on Staffing.

15. OTHER ITEMS/INFORMATIONAL

There were no other items.

*16. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes - Regular Board of Education Meeting - February 2, 2026

Motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes from February 2, 2026.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Maureen Hartwig
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson
Nay: None

*17. SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Motion to approve:

- A. that the minutes or portions of minutes on attachment A no longer require confidential treatment and are to be made available for public inspection after adoption of this motion.
- B. that the need for confidentiality still exists to all or part of the following minutes on attachment B.
- C. that attachments A and B be filed with the official minutes of the March 2, 2026 Board meeting.
- D. that specific closed session verbatim recordings as found in attachment C be destroyed.

Motion on 17A-D by Kelly Foersterling, second by Dana Jaime
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson
Nay: None

*18. ACTION ON OTHER CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

A. Board Decision Concerning Step IV Teacher's Grievance

Motion to sustain the Superintendent's decision concerning the grievance filed by Dan Gonzalez and authorize the Board President to issue a written decision.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dana Jaime

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

B. Action Concerning Employment of Athletic Trainer

Motion to approve the immediate termination of employment of Athletic Trainer, Ashley Nolan.

Motion by Dana Jaime, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

C. Action Concerning Employment of Security Guard

Motion to approve the immediate termination of employment of Security Guard, Julio Trinidad

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dana Jaime

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Motion by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries by unanimous voice vote

With no further business to come before the Board, President Yousuf-Abramson adjourned the Board Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Ginny Edwards, Secretary

Sheila Yousuf-Abramson, President