

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2026

Minutes of the Maine Township High School District 207 Committee of the Whole Meeting held in the District 207 Administration Center Boardroom at 7:00 a.m. on April 20, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Eicker  
Kelly Foersterling  
Maureen Hartwig  
Rebecca Heneghan  
Dana Jaime  
Dean Patras  
Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

OTHERS PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Yousuf-Abramson called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. The Board Secretary called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Park Ridge 6th Ward Alderperson Lauren Rapisand, addressed the Board on the Hamlin Street property owned by the District.

FIELD MASTER PLAN

Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Kalou and a team from Wight and Company, Mr. John Peacock, Ms. Patty King and Mr. Shawn Benson, presented the Field Master Plan to the Board. The project goals are to improve playability and field conditions, create standards, provide parity when possible, and update fencing and equipment. Walk throughs were conducted at each school, meetings were held with all head coaches and options were outlined and shared. Field assessments and usage by athletes were compared for all seasons. Options and development standards were discussed as well as current practices that do not meet standards. Ms. Kalou ran through available funding through Capital Projects and the impact on current fund balance. Next steps include input from the Board and the recommended option for approval and stakeholder involvement. The Field Master Plan will be on the agenda for discussion at the Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting on May 15, 2026.

SHUTTLE BUSES

The District is looking into providing shuttle buses to fill the gap in transportation service for students who live in the Norridge/Harwood Heights areas not served by PACE. The estimated cost to the District would be \$250 - \$400 per day or \$89,000 - \$143,000 per year. To offset the annual cost by \$20,000 - \$28,000, a proposal would be to charge \$350 per year for students who do not qualify for waivers and no cost to students on fee waivers. The District would pick up the rest of the cost. Another option to explore is using activity buses (2 per school ) and running a daily shuttle at 6:00 p.m. at an approximate cost of \$400,000 per year. Discussion followed. The shuttle bus option will be on the May Board agenda. Activity buses may be discussed at the May Committee of the Whole meeting.

TECHNOLOGY BUDGET 2026-2027

The 2026-2027 technology budget includes the usual replacement cycle of computers and hardware as well as software and platform upgrades and security infrastructure. The Board will be asked to approve the technology budget at the May 4, 2026 Board of Education meeting.

3RD QUARTER BUDGET UPDATE

Revenue is greater than budget by \$1 million due to positive Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes. Late collection of property taxes drove investment income down by \$1 million. Benefits are over budget by \$915,000 because of a January 1 premium increase. The differences are projected to reduce the budgeted surplus by approximately \$1.5 million.

WIGHT FEASIBILITY STUDY FROST/TRANSITION

The District has requested that Wight conduct a comprehensive study of the District owned property on Hamlin for a possible new location for our Transition Program and Frost Academy. To go through the process, Wight would charge \$50,000 plus a possible additional fee of up to \$10,000 for these services if a space outside of District property is investigated for this programming. The approval will go to the May Board meeting.

MARCH 31ST INVESTMENT VOLATILITY REPORT

The standard quarterly report on the market value of District investments will go to the May Board meeting.

MAINE SOUTH RENOVATION BID

Director of Buildings and Grounds Mr. Dave Ulm, updated the Board on the renovation projects for Maine East bathrooms and Maine South bathrooms and CTE area. The original bid estimate was \$500,000 but additional plumbing was found to be necessary. Seven bids were opened on April 16, 2026 with Reed Construction as the low bidder at \$688,000.

MAINE EAST OLD POOL BID

Five bids were opened on April 12, 2026 and detailed scope review was conducted. The work involves demolishing and filling the old pool at Maine East, rebuilding the terrace and entrance to the Special Needs program, and rebuilding the loading dock elevator structure. Administration recommends approving a contract with Kandu Construction in the total amount of \$1,931,000 which includes alternates 1 and 2. In addition, administration recommends approving a contract with ECS Midwest, LLC in the amount of \$33,280 for management and testing the compaction of the infill of the old pool.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION

The District opened five bids for Special Education transportation on April 17, 2026. The bids are currently under review. A recommendation will be shared in Friday notes as well as a request to approve the contract at the May Board meeting.

SINGLE STUDENT SMALL GROUP TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The District is requesting a one-year contract extension of our transportation services for single students and small groups of high needs and medically fragile students. The base prices have been adjusted to include CPI increases of 2.7% for contracts with American Taxi and All-Ways Medical Carriers. The District has used these companies for years and have been happy with their service.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSULTING

Due to time constraints, the renewable energy consulting will be discussed at the May 15, 2026 COTW meeting.

ROYAL PUBLISHING - CONTRACT WITH REMUNERATIONS GREATER THAN \$1,000

Royal Publishing prints athletic brochures for our programs at each school. Maine South's contract will expire at the end of this school year. The District is recommending approval of a 3-year contract at the May Board meeting. Over the past 3-year contract, Maine South received proceeds of approximately \$2,600. The money was used for the athletic teams.

CHANGING INCOME LIMIT FOR FREE LUNCH

The District is recommending a change in the income level for free lunch, specifically those who qualified for reduced price, will now be eligible for free meals. The approximate cost to the District is \$24,000 - \$30,000 per year.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:35 a.m. for discussion on Student Personnel, Review of Closed Session Minutes, Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, 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 Ed Eicker, seconded by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to return to Open Session at 9:05 a.m.

Motion by Dean Patras, seconded by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

ACTION ON STUDENT RESIDENCY MATTER

Motion to approve that the Board of Education has fully considered and upholds the Administration's determination that Student 42026-1 has not been a resident of the District for the 2025-2026 school year. As a result, Student 42026-1 will be disenrolled effective at the end of the semester, and will not be permitted to attend Maine Township High School District 207 or any of its schools after this date.

Motion by Ed Eicker, seconded by Dana Jaime

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ed Eicker to adjourn the meeting. With no further business to come before the committee, President Yousuf-Abramson adjourned the Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:07 a.m.

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Ginny Edwards, Secretary

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Sheila Yousuf-Abramson,, President