

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2026

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Maine Township High School District 207, Cook County, Illinois, held in the District 207 Administration Center on August 3, 2026.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Yousuf-Abramson called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:04 p.m. The Board Secretary called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rebecca Heneghan

OTHERS PRESENT

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Update from Superintendent

Dr. Bonuma is excited to start the new year following a lot of amazing preparation work done over the summer. Great progress has been made on our facilities and the strategic plan is in a good place. Nearly 70 new teachers will begin at District 207 next week and 36 people are facilitating new roles within the District. Dr. Bonuma invited Board members to attend the all staff new school year kick-off meeting at Maine East on Monday, August 10. The freshmen class begins on August 12 and sophomores, juniors and seniors begin on August 13. Next, Dr. Bonuma invited the principals to give an update on their buildings.

Maine East Principal Dr. Melissa Pikul is excited about the new year and welcoming back staff including 25 new teachers and 2 new Assistant Principals for Student Supports. Facilities are looking great with a special focus on branding. Dr. Pikul was especially happy to mention Maine East Class of 2018 Antwan Kelly who pitched for the Chicago Cubs this summer.

Maine South Principal Dr. Antwan Babakhani said the new year is off to an exciting start with South just hosting a camp with 100 bands. Dr. Babakhani also congratulated Maine East alumni and new Cubs pitcher Antwan Kelly.

Maine West Principal Mr. Daniel Hill is attending his first Board meeting. Mr. Hill said the transition has been phenomenal and his new colleagues are gracious. 10-month employees began today and the official kick-off is

tomorrow. Maine West welcomed new Athletic Director Sara Flanigan. Finally, Mr. Hill is happy to report that installation of the new blue turf field is underway.

Dr. Bonuma added that Maine East will get a new turf field next year and noted that we are working with the park district to determine if the fireworks can be held next July at East.

B. Updates from Board Members

Mr. Patras attended the new teacher orientation today. Mr. Patras noticed the nice momentum and energetic group adding they are a compliment to the strategic plan.

Dr. Yousuf-Abramson appreciates the principals and loves to hear what is happening in our buildings. She sent out a thank you to the cabinet members for their work. Finally, Dr. Yousuf-Abramson encouraged Board members, if they can, to attend the Triple I Conference in November in Chicago.

C. Strategic Plan Update

Director of Communications Mr. Brett Clark updated the Board on the strategic plan stating that the focus at this time is on communication. The goal was to keep citizens informed so they have a good understanding through clear, accessible and repeated information to build awareness, understanding and connection to the plan. The District has a dedicated website page including a video featuring Dr. Bonuma, Dr. Yousuf-Abramson and 6 students. Updates of the plan will also be shared through email, social media, prints and wall graphics. The Communications Plan begins in August with Phase 1 and initial understanding. Phase 2, (September - December 2026) builds on the initial understanding by teaching one story at a time, while Phase 3 keeps the plan visible and connects to the accountability that the District promised. From June 2027 through June 2030, the strategic plan will progress with evaluation and continuous improvement.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. MONTHLY STATUS OF FINANCES

A. Monthly Finance Report

Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Kalou, updated the Board on the May and June 2026 financials. Revenues are fairly in line with budget with the variance being property tax collection. Expenses are comparable to last year and in line with the budget.

B. Summer Projects Update

All door frames, electrical and card reader hardware have been installed Districtwide. The project should be completed by the first day of school. In addition, 90% of the building automation system migration is complete.

Maine East is dealing with the challenging old pool. The void space under the pool has muck between 2" and 53" deep. The condition has concerned our structural engineers and they suggest more investigation to determine the best path forward. The pool project is scrapped for this summer. Washrooms are 90% complete with tiling and fixtures being installed this week. Band and Orchestra storage is delayed with anticipated delivery of August 24th, however, there will be no impact for the start of school. The freight elevator rebuild, paving and striping are complete. Still in process and to be completed soon are roofing and the orchestra enclosure.

Maine South is 90% complete on the CTE lab reconfiguration, tuckpointing and window glazing. Concrete work is finished and stadium lighting is substantially done. The monument sign is in the design phase and will go into production soon.

Maine West has completed roofing, concrete, waterpipe replacement, and band and instrument storage. The freight elevator rebuild is 30% complete but will not impact the start of school as they have working passenger elevators. The turf is on schedule and will be ready for the start of the fall season. Stage lighting systems and broadcast studio lighting are still waiting on delivery and installation.

4. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No reports this month.

5. OTHER ITEMS

A. Monthly FOIA Requests for June and July 2026

There were twenty two FOIA requests for the months of June and July and they have been responded to or are in process.

*6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES APPROVED - June 1, 2026

B. BOARD BILLS - JUNE 2026 and JULY 2026

Bills dated June 30, 2026 totaling \$6,733,520.02

Fund Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207:	\$6,572,329.41
ED-RED	9,624.02
NSERVE:	151,566.59

Bills dated July 31, 2026 totaling \$5,903,419.75

Fund Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207:	\$5,895,169.75
ED-RED	8,250.00
NSERVE:	0.00

C. PAYROLLS – JUNE 2026 and JULY 2026

June 2026 payrolls:

DISTRICT 207:	\$12,407,671.03
ED-RED	21,885.46
NSERVE:	20,617.31

July 2026 payrolls:

DISTRICT 207:	\$9,594,705.48
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ED-RED: 34,494.72
NSERVE: 21,244.66

D. STUDENT ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURES - MAY AND JUNE 2026

E. SCHOOL GIFTS

1. Evanston Community Foundation/Shawn Patrick Afryl #56 Shoe Fund - \$770.00 - Athletic Shoes for Disadvantaged Maine West Student Athletes
2. James P. Karr/CEO Steamvolt, Inc. Project - \$3,000.00 - Maine West Class of 2026 Scholarships
3. Maine East Class of 1983 - \$500.00 - Maine East Senior Scholarship
4. Ranalli's Park Ridge, LLC - \$9,553.57 - Maine East Football Program
5. Maine South Music Boosters - \$5,489.00 - Ableton Moves for Music Productions at Maine South
6. Maine East Athletic Boosters - \$3,950.00 - Maine East Athletic Golf Cart
7. MTHS Foundation - \$372.84 - School Based Health Center at Maine East
8. Lakeshore Athletic Services - \$2,750.00 - Maine East Boys Wrestling Program
9. MTHS Foundation - \$369.84 - D207 Annual Campaign Donation to the SBHC
10. James Karr, SteamVolt, Inc. - \$10,000.00 - Maine West Family Center
11. Unrivaled Athletics - \$4,000.00 - Maine South Girls Flag Football National Championship Travel

F. OVERNIGHT TRIPS FOR BOARD APPROVAL

1. Maine East and West - IL High School Theatre Festival - Champaign-Urbana, IL - January 7-9, 2027
2. Maine East, South, West - IMEA All-State Music Festival - Peoria, IL - January 27-30, 2027
3. Maine West - IHSA Speech Individual Finals, Peoria Civic Center, IL - February 19-20, 2027

Motion to approve 6A-F by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Foersterling

*7. APPROVAL OF BIDS AND AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

A. Agreement with Maine Hockey Association - 2026-2027 School Year

This annual agreement includes the standard protocols connected to District 207.

Motion by Dana Jaime, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Foersterling

B. IGA - CSL - Payment of IHSA Licensed Officials for Athletic Events

The formal agreement allows officials' rates to be set by the Central Suburban League instead of set by the school districts and is effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Eicker, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson
Nay: None
Absent: Foersterling

C. IGA - TrueNorth - Attendance by Non-member District Students

The agreement is for cooperative placement for special education students with complex needs. TrueNorth is an ISBE approved program. Approximately 3-6 District 207 students attend annually.

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

D. Updated Quest Pricing - 2026-2027

As discussed at the June Board meeting, the District is expanding the lunch offering for students on the free and reduced lunch program. The cost of the value meal went from \$4.30 to \$6.50 and will broaden options for students on the program.

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

E. Relay - Services Agreement and License - Medicaid Reimbursements for Health Care Services

On behalf of the District, Relay tracks and submits medicaid reimbursements for occupational and physical therapy services for medicaid eligible students.

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

*8. TEXTBOOKS - 2ND READING

Motion to approve textbooks for the 2026-2027 school year

This book is a Frost Academy offering and has gone through the review process and first reading in June.

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

*9. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT 207 TENTATIVE BUDGET 2026-2027

Total revenues and other financing sources of \$227,451,686 and total expenditure and financing uses of 223,509,487.

As discussed at the Public Hearing held just prior to this meeting, revenues are up due to tax collections and expenses are up slightly in the transportation fund. The District expects to run a \$4 million surplus for the 2026-2027 budget. The budget will go for approval at the September Board meeting and be filed with the State by the end of September.

Motion by Dean Patras, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Foersterling

*10. APPROVAL OF NSERVE BUDGET - 2026-2027 (District 207 Administrative Agent - \$1,938,600.

District 207 is the administrative agent for NSERVE. The budget must be adopted in August and filed with the State by August 31, 2026.

Motion by Dana Jaime, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Foersterling

11. OTHER ITEMS

There were no other items.

*12. CLOSED SESSION

A. Student Personnel

B. Review of Closed Session Minutes

C. Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, 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 for the Board to adjourn to Closed Session at 6:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussing 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, second by Dana Jaime

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Foersterling

*13. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion for the Board to return to open session at 7:06 p.m.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None
Absent: Foersterling

*14. PERSONNEL ACTION

A. ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT

Sara Flanigan - Athletic Director - Maine West (replaces DM)
Start Date: July 27, 2026, \$165,000.00

Helen Romios - Director of Fiscal Services - District 207 (replaces PA)
Start Date: July 30, 2026, \$162,000.00

B. ADMINISTRATOR RETIREMENT

Jill Geocarlis - Director of Curriculum and Instruction - District 207
Retirement effective June 30, 2030

C. CERTIFIED STAFF APPOINTMENT

Brent Abas - Special Education Teacher - Maine West (updated FTE)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$72,754.00

Luke Burkum - English Teacher - Maine South (replaces EC)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$50,501.59 (.67 FTE)

Melinda Capper - Special Education Teacher - Maine West (replaces HB)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$88,155.00

Amir Cavic - Health & Wellness Teacher - Maine East (additional hire)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$39,126.50 (.5 FTE)

Elizabeth Eichin - French Teacher - Maine South (replaces BK)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$36,377.00 (.5 FTE)

Mackenzie Gora - Postsecondary Counselor - Maine East (replaces AI)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$91,524.00

Grace Hoppe - Maine Teacher - Maine West (replaces HA)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$74,238.00

Claudia Kadzielawa - Health & Wellness Teacher - Maine South (additional hire)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$72,754.00

Sarah Knoeckl - Special Education Teacher - Maine East (replaces AJ)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$104,241.00

Annie Lee - Spanish Teacher - Maine South (replaces BK)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$52,216.93 (.67 FTE)

Giovanni Martinelli - Social Science Teacher - Maine South (updated FTE)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$51,820.93 (.67 FTE)

Joseph O'Hara - Science Teacher - Maine South (replaces QM)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$104,241.00

Mark Ori - Special Education Teacher - Maine South (replaces BL)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$123,881.00

Jessica Rosenberg - Special Education Teacher - Maine East (replaces LC)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$85,799.17 (.833 FTE)

Monika Smaga - Math Teacher - Maine South (additional hire)
Start Date: August 10, 2026, \$77,298.00

D. CERTIFIED RESIGNATION

Hazel Bernal - Special Education Teacher - Maine West
Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Alexis Lane - School Psychologist - Maine South
Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Brian Lorenz - Health & Wellness Teacher - Maine South
Resignation effective August 1, 2026

Quinn MacKenzie - Science Teacher - Maine South
Resignation effective May 28, 2026

Sonja Rzeszutko - Health & Wellness Teacher - Maine East
Resignation effective May 28, 2026

E. SUPPORT STAFF APPOINTMENT

Amir Cavic - Teacher Assistant (.5 FTE) addition to .5 FTE Teacher - Maine East
Start Date: August 10, 2026, Salary: \$16,948.31 (.5 FTE)

Gelssen Cruz - Custodian 2nd shift Supervisor - Maine West (replaces MC)
Start Date: July 26, 2026, Moved to 2nd shift Supervisor - Stipend \$6,143.08

Deena Axiom Gibson - Accounts Payable - District 207 (replaces SD)
Start Date: TBD, Salary: \$75,000.00

Roxane Fuoco - Board Secretary/Assistant to the Superintendent - (replaces VE)
Start Date: TBD, Salary: \$99,000.00

Justyn Funkhouser - 10-month Administrative Assistant - Maine East (replaces LD)
Start Date: August 3, 2026, Salary: \$42,146.58

Jaisy Geans - Payroll Specialist - District 207 (replaces LB)
Start Date: TBD, Salary: \$85,500.00

Brendan Tartford - 10-month Security Guard - Maine South (replaces MR)
Start Date: TBD, Salary: \$41,203.20

Giovanni Martinelli - Social Science Teacher Assistant (.25 FTE) addition to .667 FTE Teacher
Start Date: August 10, 2026, Updated FTE

Kenya Mitchell - 10-month Security Guard - Maine South (additional hire)
Start Date: TBD, Salary: \$37,868.75

Scott Yoshioka - Director of Buildings & Grounds - Maine South (replaces RB)
Start Date: August 3, 2026, Salary: \$106,000.00

Haley Vega-Rojas - 10-month Administrative Assistant - Maine East (replaces CV)
Start Date: ATBD, Salary: \$42,146.58

F. SUPPORT STAFF RESIGNATION

Stephanie Baquendo - Administrative Assistant - District 207
Resignation effective July 16, 2026

Thomas Bazarek - Security Guard - Maine East
Resignation effective July 28, 2026

Karyn Blong - HR Assistant - District 207
Resignation effective July 31, 2026

John Buccini - Security Guard - Maine West
Resignation effective August 9, 2026

Ariana DiDiana - Payroll Specialist - District 207
Approved in June, did not start position

Kristen Economos - Career Coordinator - Maine East
Resignation effective July 15, 2026

Leila Noelle - Teacher Assistant - Maine West
Resignation effective August 21, 2026

Sherrone Thompson - Teacher Assistant - Maine South
Resignation effective July 3, 2026

G. SUPPORT STAFF RETIREMENT

Laura Wilkens - Manager of Business and Community Relations - District 207
Retirement effective July 1, 2027

Michelle Wordel - District Scheduler - District 207
Retirement effective July 3, 2027

Motion to approve personnel items 14A-G

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

***15. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES - June 1, 2026

Motion to approve Closed Session Minutes from June 1, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Rebecca Heneghan, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Foersterling

***16. ACTION ON OTHER CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

A. Approval of Board Decision Concerning Uniform Grievance Complaint Submitted April 30, 2026

Motion to authorize the written decision of the Board of Education concerning the Uniform Grievance Complaint submitted on April 30, 2026 related to a student disciplinary matter, wherein the Board of Education denies the complaint and directs the Administration to receive refresher training on improving student discipline practices.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Rebecca Heneghan

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Foersterling

***17. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Motion by Dana Jaime. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Yousuf-Abramson adjourned the Board meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Ginny Edwards, Secretary

Sheila Yousuf-Abramson, President