

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2026

Minutes of the Maine Township High School District 207 Regular Board of Education Meeting held in the District 207 Administration Center Boardroom at 6:00 p.m. on September 8, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Tatiana Bonuma
Mary Kalou
Shawn Messmer
George Dagres
Katie Di Sanza
Melissa Pikul
Antwan Babakhani
Daniel Hill
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 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

A. Taissia Mazur - Maine East

Dr. Pikul introduced Taissia Mazur as East's 207's Best for Academic Achievement. Dr. Pikul remarked on Taissia's impressive academic record considering she came to Maine East from Ukraine during her sophomore year, earning straight A's in every course she has taken. Taissia values her relationships with teachers and the opportunities she has explored such as music, the arts, honor societies and school clubs. Taissia is especially passionate about English and physics and scored a perfect 36 on her ACT in mathematics. With her academic talent, resilience and curiosity, Taissia is certain to succeed in her pursuit of a physics or engineering related field of study.

B. Lucas Runtz - Maine South

Dr. Babakhani introduced Lucas Runtz as South's 207's Best for Academic Achievement. Dr. Babakhani was pleased to not only speak about Lucas' academic excellence but his approach to his high school experiences with integrity, work ethic and self advocacy. Lucas earned a 35 on the ACT and has enough AP credits to be nearly a junior in college, all the while participating in Track, Cross Country, Southwoods, National Honor Society, and is the founder of the Hawks for Wishes chapter, granting Make-a-Wish experiences to children with critical illnesses. Lucas is grateful to his family for their support and plans to study computer engineering after graduation.

C. Victoria Naranjo - Maine West

Mr. Hill introduced Victoria Naranjo as West's 207's Best for Academic Achievement. Mr. Hill felt fortunate to honor Victoria for her exceptional performance in her demanding schedule of AP and accelerated coursework as well as her membership in National Honor Society, Pi Sigma Pi, and the Spanish, Science, English, Math, and Tri-M Music Honor Societies. Victoria enjoys the challenge of difficult coursework and earned 5's on AP tests for the U.S. History, Psychology

and U.S. Government exams. In addition, she is an accomplished cellist, is curious, humble, committed and enjoys helping others succeed. Victoria thanked her parents and plans on studying neuroscience.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Update from Superintendent

Dr. Bonuma mentioned that the team is working real hard on putting the Strategic Plan steps into play. A series of meetings and goal check-ins are in place for continual review. The District is beginning to see the great outcome of the collaborative work.

- Principal Updates

Dr. Plkul was happy to share that the attendance work is going really well at East in a slow and steady fashion. Attendance incentives have been fun for students. More students are participating in social privileges and students with perfect attendance get to choose the music for passing periods. R-code is in full swing and off to a great start.

Dr. Babakhani noted that South is off to an awesome start. The building is putting a lot of energy into this year's theme, HOPE. They are proud of the work on the attendance incentive with 97.4% expectation. Activities are in full swing allowing students to connect, contribute and belong, making all areas of school an extension of learning.

Mr. Hill was excited for the positive start to the year at West. Students are engaged and attendance is being closely monitored with approximately 150 just below the threshold. Link Crew is doing a great job with student connections and the cell phone policy is going well. The fall season is off to a great start with 531 athletes and the new turf field.

B. Board Member Updates

Members Jaime and Patras were excited to share the electric night of football last weekend as Maine West played football at Maine South.

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. MONTHLY STATUS OF FINANCES - JULY 2025

Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Kalou updated the Board on the District financials for July 2026. On the revenue side, tax money is coming in slowly. Expenses are in line with previous years with variances in Operations and Maintenance, Capital Projects and Health Life Safety funds due to the timing of when projects are completed.

5. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

A. 2025-2026 Student Participation Report

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Innovation Dr. Shawn Messmer noted the area of focus is to keep kids engaged and is part of the strategic plan. Student participation is up this year.

6. OTHER ITEMS

A. Monthly update on FOIA requests for August 2026

There were thirteen FOIA requests for August 2026 and all have been processed.

*7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES APPROVED

1. Public Hearing - August 3, 2026
2. Regular Board Meeting - August 3, 2026

B. BOARD BILLS - AUGUST 2026 TOTALING \$6,711,153.12

Fund Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207: \$6,704,232.73
ED-RED 6,734.83
NSERVE: 185.56

C. PAYROLLS – AUGUST 2026

Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207: \$11,769,009.45
ED-RED: 18,945.56
NSERVE: 21,196.35

D. STUDENT ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURES - JULY 2026 - (M. Kalou)

E. SCHOOL GIFTS

1. Rivers Casino - \$100,000.00 - Maine East and West Graduates (Des Plaines Residents) Scholarships
2. MTHS Foundation - \$1,500.00 - District Choir Festival - Maine East, South, West
3. MTHS Foundation - \$366.84 - School Based Health Center
4. Maine East Athletic Boosters - \$1,700.00 - Golf Team Putting Green
5. Maine East Athletic Boosters - \$2,625.00 - Fitness Center Data Sensors
6. Maine East Athletic Boosters - \$1,417.50 - Demon Dash Student T-shirts
7. Maine South Fine Art Boosters - \$8,000.00 - Theatre and Broadcasting Equipment
8. Anonymous Donor - 1,500 Rally Towels - Maine South Football Fans
9. Athlete Sports Projects Account - \$3,116.32 - Maine South Athlete All-State Recognition Wall

F. OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRIPS

1. Maine South Girls Volleyball Tournament - August 28 - 29, 2026 - Naperville, IL
2. Maine South Theatre Students - January 7 - 9, 2027 - IHSTF at U of I, Champagne-Urbana

G. FACILITY FEE WAIVERS

1. Des Plaines Park District - Flag Football Program - \$80.00 - Maine West
2. Des Plaines Park District - Gymnastics Program - \$1,400.00 - Maine West
3. Des Plaines Park District - Swim Team - \$9,600.00 - Maine West
4. Des Plaines Park District - Lady Warrior Basketball Program - \$7,500.00 - Maine West
5. Des Plaines Park District - Junior Warrior Basketball Program - \$8,100.00 - Maine West

H. ANNUAL TRAVEL EXPENSES - \$400,000.00 BUDGET - 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 7A-H.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

*8. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT 207 BUDGET FOR 2026-2027

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 District 207 budget with revenues of \$227,451,686, and expenditures of \$223,595,548.

There is a minor adjustment from the tentative to the final budget due to grant allocations. The budget will be filed with the State by the end of September.

Motion by Dean Patras, second by Dana Jaime

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

*9. APPROVAL OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS

A. House of Light - Vision and O&M Services

Motion to approve a contract with House of Light for Vision and Orientation and Mobility services.

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Ms. Katie Di Sanza, explained that the District posts this position every year but was unable to find a qualified applicant. This is a highly specialized position and is needed to service our students per their IEP. The contract is similar to last year.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

B. IGA - Niles Twp District for Special Education (NTDSE)

Motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with NTDSE.

Ms. Di Sanza noted this contract supports students with complex needs who we cannot educate within our program. Three of our students will continue with the program to finish their education.

Motion by Dana Jaime, second by Kelly Foersterling

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

C. Rosemont Theatre - Graduation Contract - \$74,000.00

Motion to approve a contract with Rosemont Theatre for graduation ceremonies in the amount of \$74,000.00.

Ms. Kalou noted the contract increased by 5.2% over last year. The District saves money by holding all ceremonies on the same day with one setup. This year the ceremonies will be held on May 23, 2027.

Motion by Dean Patras, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

D. Neuro Educational Specialists - Special Education Evaluations Services

Motion to approve a contract with Neuro Educational Specialists for Special Education evaluation services.

Due to a late resignation of a school psychologist, the District needed to contract out for 35 evaluations for the Transition program.

Motion by Dana Jaime, second by Kelly Foersterling

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

E. Subject.com - Credit Recovery Program - \$37,500.00.

Motion to approve a contract with Subject.com for a credit recovery program in the amount of \$37,500.00.

This contract is for an online learning platform providing credit recovery for graduation. It is flexible and adaptable for use during the school day, in summer school and night school. The program is customizable in several languages.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

F. Advocate Health Care - Medical Education Program Letter of Agreement OUT Non-Hospital Rotation

Motion to approve a contract with Advocate Health Care for Medical Education Program Letter of Agreement OUT Non-Hospital rotation.

Advocate Health Care provides medical services for the training rooms at Maine East and Maine West.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dana Jaime

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

*10. 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 6:51 p.m. for the purposes 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 Dean Patras, second by Kelly Foersterling

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

*11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to return to Open Session at 7:48 p.m.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Rebecca Heneghan

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

*12. PERSONNEL

Motion to approve personnel items 12A-D.

A. CERTIFIED APPOINTMENT

Caleigh O'Neil- Special Education Teacher - Notre Dame

Start Date: September 9, 2026 (added staff), Salary: \$78,876.00

B. SUPPORT STAFF APPOINTMENT

Frank Briody - Data Analyst Specialist - District 207

Start Date: September 2026 (replaces BC), Salary: \$87,000.00

Nicholas Carter - 2nd shift Custodian - Maine South

Start Date: September 14, 2026 (replaces RK), Salary: \$22.53 per hour plus \$720.00 annual shift stipend

Michael Cunningham - Special Education Teacher Assistant - Maine East/MTTP

Start Date: August 14, 2026 (replaces contracted TA), Salary: \$36,509.00

Reyna Espinoza - Career Coordinator - Maine East

Start Date: September 14, 2026 (replaces KE), Salary: \$75,000.00

Yonanda Gonzalez - Special Education Teacher Assistant - Maine East/MTTP

Start Date: August 13, 2026 (replaces contracted TA), Salary: \$35,447.00

George Kakares - 10 month Security Guard - Maine West

Start Date: September 2026 (replaces JZ), Salary: \$20.39 per hour (step 3)

Mark La Civita - 10 month Security Guard - Maine West

Start Date: August 24, 2026 (replaces PL), Salary: \$27.84 per hour (step 12)

Jasmine Lewis - 10 month Security Guard - Maine South

Start Date: August 26, 2026 (replaces CG), Salary: \$24.84 per hour (step 8)

Ricardo Ortiz- 2nd shift Custodian - Maine South

Start Date: September 2026 (replaces RH), Salary: \$22.53 per hour plus \$720.00 shift stipend

Michelle Pio - 12 month Administrative Assistant - District 207

Start Date: August 28, 2026 (replaces SB), Salary: \$61,961.20

Jeff Putnam - Special Education Teacher Assistant - Maine East/MTTP

Start Date: August 25, 2026 (replaces AS), Salary: \$44,923.00

Miranda Randel - Special Education Teacher Assistant - Maine East/MTTP

Start Date: August 26, 2026 (replaces MT), Salary: \$37,615.00

Nora Ross - Registered Nurse - Maine South

Start Date: August 24, 2026 (replaces AD), Salary: \$77,915.25

Shannon Sang - HR Coordinator - District 207

Start Date: September 21, 2026 (replaces KB), Salary: \$85,000.00

Juan Toscano - 2nd shift/weekend Custodian - Maine West

Start Date: September 4, 2026 (replaces GC), Salary \$22.53 per hour plus \$2,040.00 shift stipends

Gabriel Villanueva - Groundskeeper - Maine South

Start Date: September 2026 (replaces AL), Salary: \$26.10 per hour plus \$4,620.00 stipends

C. SUPPORT STAFF RESIGNATION

Anna Marie Abbate - Teacher Assistant - Maine West

Resignation effective: August 10, 2026

Ani Lugo - Teacher Assistant - Frost Academy

Resignation effective: July 29, 2026

Kenya Mitchell - Security Guard - Maine West

Resignation effective: August 13, 2026

Joseph Nagler - Teacher Assistant - Maine South

Resignation effective: August 10, 2026

Sebastian Solarz - Security Guard - Maine East

Resignation effective: September 3, 2026

D. SUPPORT STAFF RETIREMENT

Audra Dean - Teacher Assistant - Maine West

Retirement effective: September 11, 2026

Motion on 12A-D by Ed Eicker, second by Kelly Foersterling

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

13. OTHER ITEMS/INFORMATIONAL

There were no other items.

*14. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes - Regular Board of Education Meeting - August 3, 2026

Motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes from August 3, 2026.

Motion by Dean Patras, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

*15. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW

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 September 8, 2026 Board meeting.

D. that specific closed session verbatim recordings as found in attachment C be destroyed.

Motion on 15A-D by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

*16. ACTION ON OTHER CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

A. Action Concerning Employee Remedial Warning

Motion to approve the remedial warning in the form of a Notice to Remedy for Victor Fuentes.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

B. Specialized Services Contract

Motion to approve a Specialized Services contract with Michael Marassa, LLC to conduct a comprehensive District-wide technology evaluation and to support the District's Chief Technology Officer's search process in the amount of \$17,500.00.

Motion by Dean Patras, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

*19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Motion by Dean Patras, second 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 7:50 p.m.

Ginny Edwards, Secretary

Sheila Yousuf-Abramson, President