MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 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 October 5, 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
Kim Thevenin
Ginny Edwards
Roxane Fuoco

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 COMMUNITY SERVICE

A. Jill Etchason - Maine South

Dr. Babakhani introduced Jill Etchason as South's 207's Best for Community Service. Dr. Babakhani commented on Jill's remarkable accomplishments in that she has clocked more than 3,000 hours of service through Maine South's Key Club, serving as President this year and last. Jill was elected Key Club's Lieutenant Governor becoming the first Maine South student to win this elected state level position. In addition, Jill participates in Boost Club, NHS, Cross Country, Track, and enjoys running and spending time with family and friends. Dr. Babakhani added that Jill is a beacon of service and leadership and has been an inspiration to others at South. Jill plans to attend college and major in Human Resources.

B. Renata Rodriguez - Maine West

Mr. Hill introduced Renata Rodriguez as West's 207's Best for Community Service. Mr. Hill stated that Renata represents the best of what we hope for as a Warrior by way of her service to Maine West and the community. Renata intentionally focuses on helping people feel that they belong, especially those who may otherwise feel left out. She is involved in West Side, Link Crew, Spanish NHS, Art NHS, Giving for Good, Student Ambassadors and Students Organized Against Racism. Renata is willing to volunteer wherever there is a need to serve. Renata introduced her Mom and Dad and stated that it is a great honor to be here this evening. Renata plans on attending college next year and majoring in psychology.

C. Bilal Usman - Maine East

Dr. Pikul introduced Bilal Usman as East's 207's Best for Community Service. Dr. Pikul said that Bilal is a leader and committed to service. Bilal created a nonprofit organization, B4All to address food insecurity while recognizing dietary needs of diverse families. Bilal educated coaches about Ramadan and fasting athletes so they are aware of when they can eat and provided snack packs. As part of Lyceum, Bilal participated in a summer service project in Detroit, is a senior leader, and tutors District 63 students. Bilal credits his Mom who continually encourages him. Bilal introduced his Mom and brothers and plans to attend a 4-year college and continue with service to others.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Update from Superintendent/Principal's Appreciation

Dr. Bonuma expressed her heartfelt gratitude to our three building principals for their vision, resilience and unwavering dedication. Dr. Bonuam thanked these remarkable leaders for their encouragement, guidance and commitment to our students and staff.

- Principal's Updates

Maine South Principal Dr. Antwan Babakhani was happy to share that the Homecoming celebrations were great and that Mr. Mike Biondo did a wonderful job bringing spirit to the festivities. In addition, there has been an amazing change in the culture and climate of the cafeteria. Everyone is pitching in to respect the space.

Maine East Principal Dr. Melissa Pikul mentioned the great spirit during Homecoming week. The fall play just closed and received very positive feedback. At the October building meeting, the critically important signs of suicide program will be discussed.

Maine West Principal Mr. Daniel Hill stated that West had a great Homecoming and welcomed back former graduates; Angela Dugalic and Dr. Jim McCann. Angela was a member of the Girls State winning basketball team and a current member of the WNBA. West retired her jersey during the Homecoming assembly. Dr. McCann is a West graduate, author and professor emeritus of African, Environmental and Agricultural History. Dr. McCann is an honoree for the Maine West Wall of Fame.

B. Innovations and Implementation Committee Presentation

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Innovation Dr. Shawn Messmer and members of the Innovation and Initiative Committee, Mr. Dave Schultz, Mr. Steve Krasinskii and Mr. Steve Venn presented the proposed new bell schedule. Online surveys were administered to staff, students and care givers and after school focus groups were held. Survey feedback was analyzed with students and caregivers in favor of keeping the current block schedule where staff feels the current block is not supportive of student learning. A Hybrid 1 + 4 (1-8 period day and 4 block days) would increase consistency and contact and preserve time for collaboration and office hours. Challenges include different ending times and supervision on 8 period days. PACE cannot meet our needs as they will not adjust the bus schedule to accommodate a different end time one day of the week. Staff was recently surveyed again resulting in preference to keep the current full block schedule. Board President Dr. Sheila Yousuf-Abramson thanked the team for their work and for getting all voices to the table.

C. Board Member Updates

Member Patras attended the Maine South HOCO parade and said it was a lot of fun. Mr. Patras also commented on the new cool blue turf at Maine West and the energy at the football game.

Members Foersterling and Hartwig attended the Maine East fall play and said it was wonderful. They also took a tour of the museum housing the historical Maine Flyer.

Member Heneghan had concerns about the number of students that did not attend HOCO due to attendance. Dr. PIkul noted that students influence their friends about the importance of good attendance so they do not miss these social events.

President Yousuf-Abramson encouraged the Board to check out the new exhibit at the History Museum named "Voices of Veterans", saying it is beautiful and powerful.

D. Finance Committee Update - September 18, 2026

Member Patras updated the Board on the Finance Committee meeting held on September 18, 2026. All committee members were present. The committee reviewed the Health Insurance renewal for 2027. The 3-year rolling average per employee per month did not exceed the 207EA contract agreement of an 8% increase, so no plan design changes are needed. PPO premiums will increase by 13.3% and HMO will increase by 13.3%. The District contributions to the high deductible plans will increase by $50 for single and $100 for family coverage due to change in law. Dental premiums remain unchained and voluntary vision premiums are paid directly to EyeMed.

Beginning in 2024, the Township Treasurer is no longer an elected position. Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Kalou was appointed Township Treasurer in 2024 for a 2-year term. It is recommended that Ms. Kalou be appointed to serve a second 2-year term. With Ms. Kalou's retirement at the end of 2027, a recommendation for her replacement will be brought closer to that time.

E. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update - September 18, 2026

Member Jaime updated the Board on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on September 18, 2026. Ms. Kalou ran through the Construction Manager contract for the field master plan projects. It is recommended that a contract with Pepper Construction be approved as they oversaw the referendum work and performed very well. The work will be completed over 2-years at a cost of $2.8 million.

Director of Facilities Mr. Dave Ulm summarized the 2027 summer projects to be completed district-wide including installation of interior door locks and interior lighting, paving, tuckpointing, fencing and directional signage. Specifically, Maine East will have new field turf installed, demolition of the old pool, rebuilding of the loading dock and water and sewer line replacement. A new monument sign will be installed at Maine South along with roofing over the Natatorium, door replacement and the creation of a learning lab space. Maine West will remodel first floor bathrooms in B-wing, paving near the baseball and soccer fields and convert a computer lab into a welding program space. The total budget for all projects is $24,104,000.00.

F. Policy Committee Update - September 18, 2026

Member Hartwig updated the Board on the Policy Committee meeting held on September 18, 2026. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Mr. George Dagres outlined the proposed policy changes in two parts. Part 1 contained very minor IASB PRESS policy revisions which were previously shared with the Board. Policies in Part 2 include:

- 8:25 - Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Entities: Advertising for products and activities are currently routed through Director of Communications Mr. Brett Clark. Current practice does not allow for products or activities to be advertised that are illegal for students, such as alcohol. Any advertising posted on the school walls must include an administrator's stamp. Some advertising may be brought to the Board on a case-by-case basis for review.

- 2:230 - Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board: The recommendation is to accept the proposed PRESS changes. District attorneys prefer that District policies model PRESS or remain as close as possible.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on October 13, 2026.

G. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. MONTHLY STATUS OF FINANCES - AUGUST 2026

Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Kalou updated the Board on the District financials for August 2026. Revenue is slightly up as property tax money is slowly being received. Expenses are in line with previous years with variances in the Capital Projects fund due to the timing of when projects are completed. All financials are within budget.

5. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

A. Summer School Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Innovation Dr. Shawn Messmer presented the annual summer school report showing the number of classes offered and number of students served along with historical financials. Approximately 700 students were served in credit recovery courses in English and Math, in standard courses such as Health, Clinical Government and Intro to Comp Science and in enrichment/bridge courses including Precalculus and Science/Research.

B. New Textbooks - 1st Reading

One new English textbook is being presented for first reading, “What the Constitution Means to Me”. This title has gone through the vetting process of review by teachers, department chairs and district-level administrators.

C. New Course Proposals - 1st Reading

Two new courses are recommended for first reading this evening. AP Pre-Calculus AB and BC will replace our current Pre-Calculus Compression Course. Adoption of AP aligns with our course sequencing and offers a weighted math option. This also aligns with surrounding districts. Computer Science Foundations is a step up and will replace both Computer Programming and Computer Science courses, serving those who are not quite ready for AP Computer Science coursework.

6. OTHER ITEMS

A. Monthly update on FOIA requests for September 2026

There were ten FOIA requests for September 2026 and all have been responded to.

*7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES APPROVED - Regular Board of Education Meeting - September 8, 2026

B. BOARD BILLS - SEPTEMBER 2026 TOTALING $6,292,220.73

Fund Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207:	$6,258,026.48
ED-RED	15,239.23
NSERVE:	18,955.02

C. PAYROLLS – SEPTEMBER 2026

Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207:	$11,466,168.02
ED-RED:	22,193.04
NSERVE:	21,244.66

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

E. SCHOOL GIFTS

1. MTHS Foundation - $366.84 - School Based Health Center
2. Jean & Mark Dempsey - $5,000.00 - Maine West Girls Volleyball Program
3. Maine West Athletic Boosters - $6,897.95 - Various Supplies for Maine West Athletics
4. Maine West Athletic Boosters - $2,748.36 - Maine West Wrestling Team Mat Movers
5. Maine South Athletic Sports Projects - $8,000 - $9,000 - Team Championship Banners

F. OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRIPS

1. Maine South - Special Olympics Unified Generations Summit - Bradley Bourbonnais HS - 11/14-11/15/26
2. Maine East - Debate Team to Bronx Science HS Debate - New York City - 10/14-10/19/26
3. Maine East - Debate Team to University of Michigan HS Debate Invitational - 10/30-11/1/26
4. Maine East - Debate Team to Dowling Catholic HS Debate Invitational Des Moines, IA - 12/4-12/6/26
5. Maine East - Debate Team to Blake HS Debate Invitational - Minneapolis, MN - 12/18-12/21/26
6. Maine East - Maine South, Maine West - EF Tours - Educational Travel to Ghana - 6/23 - 7/2/27
7. Maine West - Baseball Team Preseason Games - Louisville, KY - 3/22 - 3/26/27
8. Maine South - Baseball Team Preseason Games - Bradenton, FL - 3/21-3/25/27

G. FACILITY FEE WAIVERS

1. Golf Maine Park District - 5K Charity Walk at Maine East Track - $458.50 - 10/24/26

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

*8. APPROVAL OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS

A. Pepper Construction - Field Master Plan Construction Manager - $2,801,912.00 (approximate)

Motion to approve a contract with Pepper Construction for Field Master Plan Construction Manager in the approximate cost of $2,801,912.00.

Pepper Construction’s fee includes all personnel costs.

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

B. Summer Projects 2027 - District-wide - $24,104,000.00

Motion to approve the Summer Projects for 2027, Distinct-wide in the amount of $24,104,000.00.

Summer projects include District-wide as well as specific school work. Approval gives the District authorization to go out for bid for the specific projects.

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

C. Knickerbocker Roofing - Maine South - $449,840.00

Motion to approve a contract with Knickerbocker Roofing for Maine South roofing project in the amount of $449,840.00.

Roofing repairs at South were originally scheduled for summer 2027. Due to two sections of roof leaks, the project will now be completed over this coming weekend.

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

*9. INSURANCE RENEWAL - 2027

Motion to approve the District Insurance Renewal for 2027.

The insurance renewal for 2027 was reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting on September 18, 2026. Premium increases are 13.3% for PPO and 14.3% for HMO. It is possible that stop loss can negotiate better savings before the increases take effect.

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

*10. APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Motion to appoint Ms. Mary Kalou as Township Trustee for a 2-year term through 2028.

This is a standard 2-year appointment.

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

*11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERVENTION IN PROCEEDINGS - PTAB

Motion to Authorize Intervention in Proceedings of the Property Tax Appeals Board (PTAB).

PTAB has decided to require a resolution on an appeal by appeal basis. Moving forward, this action will occur monthly in the Consent Agenda.

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

*12. 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 7:31 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 Kelly Foersterling, second by Ed Eicker
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson
Nay: None

*13. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to return to Open Session at 7:54 p.m.

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

*14. PERSONNEL

Motion to approve personnel items 14A-E.

A. CERTIFIED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Kate Lee - Choir Teacher - Maine East
Requesting a leave of absence from April 7 through May 26, 2027

B. CERTIFIED RETIREMENT

Nate Hassman - Science Teacher - Maine West
Retirement effective at the end of the 2030-2031 school year

C. SUPPORT STAFF APPOINTMENT

Simone Graham - 12-month Administrative Assistant to the Principal - Maine West (replaces RF)
Start Date: October 2026, Salary: $68,000.00

Patrick O'Hara - Handyman - Maine East (replaces TB)
Start Date: September 28, 2026, Salary: current salary plus an additional $3,300.00 stipend

Jataun Jones - 10-month Security - Maine East (replaces TB)
Start Date: October 6, 2026, Salary: $19.00 per hour plus $500.00 annual stipend

Martin Jose - 2nd shift Custodian - Maine South (additional hire)
Start Date: September 21, 2026, Salary: $22.53 per hour plus $720.00 annual stipend

Abel Ramirez 2nd shift Custodian - Maine West (replaces CC)
Start Date: October 5, 2026, Salary: $22.53 per hour plus $720.00 annual stipend

Craig Krsek - 10-month Security - Maine East (additional hire)
Start Date: September 23, 2026, Salary: $27.84 per hour

Adam Matolak - Special Education Teacher Assistant - Maine East (additional hire)
Start Date: September 15, 2026, Salary: $26.31 per hour plus $1.05 per hour stipend

Jalen Moore - Special Education Teacher Assistant - Maine East (additional hire)
Start Date: September 28, 2026, Salary: $26.31 per hour plus $.50 per hour stipend

Brian Napolitano - 10-month Security - Maine South (replaces MS)
Start Date: September 14, 2026, Salary: $27.84 per hour

D. SUPPORT STAFF RESIGNATION

Joseph Panek - Security Guard - Maine West
Resignation effective September 14, 2026

Elyza Hendrickson - Administrative Assistant - Frost Academy
Resignation effective October 16, 2026

Mauricio Cisneros Moya - Custodian - Maine East
Resignation effective September 30, 2026

E. SUPPORT STAFF RETIREMENT

Tyrus Garrison - Custodian - Maine South
Retirement effective December 1, 2026

Motion on 14A-E by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras
Final Resolution: Motion Carries
Aye: Eicker, Foersterling, Hartwig, Heneghan, Jaime, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson
Nay: None

15. OTHER ITEMS/INFORMATIONAL

A. Public Acts 97-0256 and 97-0609

Annually, it is required by State law to report and post Certified and Administrative salary and benefits annually along with IMRF employees earning over $75,000.00 per year.

*16. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes - Regular Board of Education Meeting - September 8, 2026.

Motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes from September 8, 2026.

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

*17. ACTION ON OTHER CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

A. Student Expulsion - Student #100526-1

Motion to approve that the Board of Education has fully considered and upholds the Administration's recommendation that Student 100526-1 be expelled for the remainder of the 2026-2027 school year. The District will provide educational services through the Regional Office of Education.

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

B. Support Staff Dismissal

Motion to approve the immediate termination of employment of security guard Ulisse Grimaldo.

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

*18. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 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 7:56 p.m.

Ginny Edwards, Secretary

Sheila Yousuf-Abramson, President