

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2024

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 Boardroom on December 2, 2024.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Yousuf-Abramson called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:03 p.m. The Board Secretary called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Teri Collins
Linda Coyle
Ed Eicker
Jin Lee
Carla Owen
Dean Patras
Sheila Yousuf-Abramson

OTHERS PRESENT

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

2. 207'S BEST FOR ELECTIVE AREA OF ACHIEVEMENT

A. Maine West - Quintin Newbury

Maine West Principal Dr. Eileen McMahon introduced Quintin Newbury as West's 207's Best for Elective Area of Achievement. Dr. McMahon began by saying that Quintin (Q) excels in multiple elective areas but especially shines in culinary. In addition to taking AP and accelerated courses, Q is also a Culinary intern, assisting in ingredient prep, general room upkeep and giving student feedback. On the varsity wrestling team, Q demonstrated hard work and sportsmanship. Q's love is cooking for his family and making it his own. His teachers add that Q is creative, authentic, kind, hardworking, patient and a true privilege to have in class. Q introduced his Mom, brother and Grandma and plans to major in culinary and business and one day open his own restaurant.

B. Maine East - Albert Ontogtokh

Maine East Principal Dr. Melissa Pikul introduced Albert Ontogtokh as East's 207's Best for Elective Area of Achievement. Dr. Pikul stated that Albert has a variety of elective course experiences studying Spanish for cultural understanding and to connect with the wider world. Over and above taking rigorous courses, Albert's excellence extends to AP Environmental Science which aligns to his passion for nature as well as champion of human rights. Other activities include Lyceum, DECA, Maine East Cares, Band and volleyball. Albert is a standout student with a drive for learning. He is compassionate, empathic, positive, curious and an uplifting motivator for his peers. Albert introduced his parents and plans to explore his interest in liberal arts, economics and environmental policy.

C. Maine South - Eve Hinton

Maine South Principal Dr. Antwan Babakhani introduced Eve Hinton as South's 207's Best for Elective Area of Achievement. Dr. Babakhani shared that Eve has a passion for language and culture and is studying French, Mandarin Chinese and Korean. Along with taking many AP courses, Eve is also a member of Model UN, French National Honor Society, theater, choir and a leader in A Capella. Eve is known for being a wonderful classmate with a positive attitude and

smile and a loyal friend who is kind, supportive and thoughtful. Some of Eve's service work has been centered around helping refugees and she has an interest in learning about policy. Eve introduced her Mom, Dad and sister and plans to pursue international studies as well as the Chinese and French language and culture.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

B. Update from Superintendent

Dr. Bonuma updated the Board on the potential partnership with the City of Des Plaines regarding the paid leave ordinance. The Des Plaines City Council will vote on exemption from participating in the paid leave ordinance for school districts. Dr. Bonuma thanked Mary Kalou for her work on this. The Board will be updated when information is available.

C. Updates from Board Members

Dr. Collins thanked the Key Club and National Honor Society students for their participation in the annual Blanket of Dreams Campaign. 50 District 207 students were among the nearly 500 people who made 677 blankets for the homeless.

President Yousuf-Abramson noted the Board held a retreat on August 16, 2024 and worked together to create Board operation guidelines. The document will be posted on the District website for all stakeholders. Dr. Yousuf-Abramson thanked all Board members for their work on this.

Member Lee encouraged Board members to attend the annual COSSBA national conference in Georgia this spring.

D. Finance Committee Update

Member Patras updated the Board on the Finance Committee meeting held on November 18, 2024. The committee was updated on the transportation study to aid in next steps. The District continues to work with Pace and is considering adding additional bus routes, some of which may be subsidized by the District. The annual audit was reviewed and went very well resulting in an unqualified, best opinion, free of misstatements, control issues or findings. There was a net change of \$17.3 million in general funds and the AFR showed a recognition rating of 3.9/4. Overall the audit had very good news to report. Based on the financial statement, the student tuition cost for 2024-2025 increased by less than 1% at \$24,160.82. Lastly, Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Kalou ran through the Gale in Context contract. The contract is for a library software program which all students can access.

E. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update

Dr. Collins updated the Board on the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting held on November 18, 2024. This single topic meeting summarized the security consultant's recommendation following a districtwide security screening. The District will work with law enforcement and building administration. This summer, the priority is to replace door fobs and locks.

4. MONTHLY STATUS OF FINANCES

A. Monthly Finance Report - October 2024

Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Mary Kalou updated the Board on the October 2024 financials. Revenues are up due to early property tax collection which began in August. Expenditures are in line with previous year and within budget.

5. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

A. School Report Card

Dr. Shawn Messmer, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Innovation presented the school report card for the class of 2024. The report aids in determining where we are and identifies areas to work on in the future. The academic

indicators, accounting for 75%, include graduation rate, SAT and EL track to proficiency, school quality, student success, chronic absenteeism and freshmen on track to graduate. For the past five years, the District has had three commendable schools. The State graduation rate is 87.7% where the District graduation rate sits at 90% and 94% of 9th graders are on track. Identified areas to work on are our chronic absenteeism which is slightly above the State average and standardized testing, namely math and science scores. ELA scores are heading in the right direction at all schools. The District continues on its equity journey evaluating student learning, learning conditions and teacher/student demographics ratio for which we are doing a nice job when tracking locally. We are back to ACT and based on the College Board, the District is hitting benchmarks and performed 2.5% better in all buildings. According to redefining ready data, 66% of students are going to college and are successful. Actions moving forward are to concentrate on more accurate placement in MTSS services which will include articulation meetings with our partner districts. We will continue our co-teaching of regular education and special education courses. In addition, we look for teachers to obtain their ESL or bilingual endorsement. Overall, our kids are doing well and are successful.

6. OTHER ITEMS

A. Monthly FOIA Requests for November 2024

There were three FOIA requests for the month of November and they have been responded to or are in process.

ACTION ITEMS: Items for which a roll call vote will be made

*7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. MINUTES APPROVED - November 4, 2024

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the minutes from the November 4, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

B. BOARD BILLS - NOVEMBER 2024

That the Board of Education approves Board bills dated November 30, 2024 in the amount of \$2,918,025.23.

Fund Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207:	\$2,739,291.43
NSERVE:	177,734.49
ED-RED	999.31

C. PAYROLLS – NOVEMBER 2024

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves November 2024 payrolls in the amount of:

DISTRICT 207:	\$10,465,570.38
NSERVE:	18,363.00
ED-RED:	19,500.48

D. STUDENT ACTIVITIES EXPENDITURES

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the reports which cover expenditures of the various Student Activities organizations in District 207 for the months of October 2024 as presented..

E. SCHOOL GIFTS

Resolution: That the Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and authorizes District 207 to accept the following donations.

1. MTHS Foundation - \$2,500.00 - Maine West Schlanbusch Scholarship Fund
2. MTHS Foundation - \$1,262.50 - Maine South US History Student Field Trip
3. Danube Swabian Fund - \$1,000.00 - Maine South German Club Activities

4. Vitalant Healthcare - \$1,000.00 - MaineSouth Student Council Senior Scholarships
5. Maine West Baseball - \$12,500.00 - Maine West Baseball Field Upgrades

Motion on 7A-E by Teri Collins, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle (7B-E), Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras (7B-E), Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

Abstain: 7A - Coyle, Eicker

***8.. BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES - 2nd READING**

- A. 7:185 - Teen Dating Violence Prohibited - Update
- B. 2:260 - Discrimination, Complaints and Grievances - Update
- C. 2:265 - Title IX Grievance Procedure - Update
- D. 5:100 - Staff Development Programs - Update
- E. 7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited - Update
- F. 7:255 - Use of Service Animals in Schools - New Policy
- G. 5:281 - Teaching Load and Class Size - Revised
- H. 6:31 - Class Size - Delete

Resolution: That the Board of Education adopts and approves the above mentioned policies for inclusion in the District 207 Board of Education policy manual.

These policies were shared with the Board in September and October and went through first reading in November.

Motion by Jin Lee, second by Carla Owen

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

***9. ACTION ON 2024 TAX LEVY AND PAID LEAVE ORDINANCE WITH COOK COUNTY**

A. 2024 Tax Levy

The 2024 Tax Levy must be filed with the Cook County Clerk prior to the last Tuesday in December, 2024. It is the duty of the Board of Education to adopt a levy at this Board meeting.

Resolution:

1. That the Board of Education adopts a Resolution Providing for the Levy of Taxes by the Board of Education for 2024 in the amount of \$154,321,815 in the capped funds and the estimated amount of \$15,000,000 for non-capped funds (Exhibit A).
2. That the Board of Education certifies the tax for Special Education Programs/Purposes (Exhibit B)
3. That the Board of Education certifies the inapplicability of the Truth-in-Taxation Act (Exhibit C)

There were no changes from the tentative levy approved in November.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

B. Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance

Resolution: Move to authorize the Board President and/or the Superintendent to request the City of Des Plaines' City Council to adopt an ordinance at its earliest opportunity in the exercise of the City's home rule authority exempting the City and Maine Township High School District 207 from the application of the Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance.

The District has been working with the City of Des Plaines. The City's home rule allows for the city to exempt school districts and park districts from participating. ED-RED is working to be sure the Illinois legislature keeps us opted out.

Motion by Carla Owen, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*10. APPROVAL OF BIDS AND AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

A. Cengage - Gale in Context - Subject Specific Library Software

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves a nine month contract with Cengage for Gale in Context for a library software system in the amount of \$43,148.13.

This is a renewal of our library software featuring online context and video and is an integral part of our library programs.

Motion by Dean Patras, second by Linda Coyle

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

B. Corrie, LLC - Consulting Services

Resolution: That the Board approves a contract with Corrie LLC for consulting services (adult learning, mentoring and student workshops) beginning on December 15, 2024 and ending on June 15, 2025 in the amount of \$30,000.00.

The District has been working with Corrie Wallace as our equity consultant for years. Corrie continues to work with us and student athletes focusing on awareness activities.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*11. AUDIT ACCEPTANCE

The 2023-2024 audits for Maine Township High School District 207 and NSERVE are now complete. Eccezion, the District auditors, provided draft copies to the Board of Education and gave an overview of the audit results at the Finance Committee meeting on November 18, 2024.

Resolution: That the Board of Education accepts the audit reports for: Maine Township High School District 207 and North Suburban Educational Region for Vocational Education (NSERVE) for the year ending June 30, 2024. Further, recommend the Board of Education direct the Secretary of the Board to make these audits a part of the permanent school district records and file the same with federal, state and regional offices in accord with the legal obligations of the District.

The audit was reviewed at the November Finance meeting. The audit review covered management discussion and analysis, AFR and single audit report on governance. The audit went very well with no management letter and was free of misstatements, control issues or findings. The audit resulted in an unqualified opinion (best opinion) and the AFR shows a recognition rating of 3.9/4.

Motion by Jin Lee, second by Teri Collins

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*12. TUITION COST PER PUPIL

Resolution: Board Policy 7:60 - Residence, requires that non-resident students be charged tuition as established by the Board of Education in accordance with the School Code. The 2023-24 Annual Financial Report sets the tuition charge per pupil at \$24,160.82 an increase of \$187.41 or 0.78% over last year's tuition. Allowable expenditures increased by .63% and the District average daily attendance increased by 0.23%. The District has traditionally used this amount as the established tuition for the District.

This is the lowest increase in many years. We currently have no tuition paying students for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion by Linda Coyle, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*13. NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

A. Traditional Math 4 STEM

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the new course, Transitional Math 4 STEM as presented.

Approval of this new course will grant credit bearing Math courses at Oakton College.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Linda Coyle

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*14. FACILITY FEE WAIVER

A. Golf Maine Park District - Wrestling Room Rental

Resolution: That the Board of Education enters into a contract with Golf Maine Park District to hold a wrestling program at Maine East and that the facility rental fees be waived as presented.

Dr. Pikul notes that Golf Maine Park District is a great partner to Maine East. The waiver allows us to continue to build the relationship with Golf Maine and grow our athletic programs.

Motion by Jin Lee, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

15. CALENDAR ITEMS

December 16, 2024

Committee Meetings

Finance Committee - 5:00 p.m.

Buildings & Grounds Committee - 5:15 p.m.

December 23, 2024 - January 3, 2025

Winter Break - No School for Students

December 24, 25, 31, 2024 and January 1, 2025

Offices are Closed

December 23, 26, 27, 30, 2024 and January 2-3, 2025

Offices are Open

January 6, 2025

Staff and Students return to School

January 6, 2025

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

6:00 p.m.

January 20, 2025

Martin Luther King Day

No School, Offices are Closed

There were no changes made to the calendar.

16. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no other communications or public comments. .

*17. 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. Security Procedures and the Use of Personnel and Equipment to Respond to an Actual, a Threatened, or a Reasonably Potential Danger to the Safety of Employees, Students, Staff, the Public or Public Party

Resolution: That the Board adjourns to Closed Session at 7:19 p.m. for the purpose of Review of Closed Session Minutes.

Motion by Jin Lee, second by Teri Collins

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*18. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resolution: That the Board returns to open session at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Teri Collins

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

*19. PERSONNEL ACTION

A. SUPPORT STAFF RETIREMENT

EWA PLACEK - SCHEDULER - MAINE EAST (2/19/2002)

Retirement effective January 3, 2025

B. SUPPORT STAFF APPOINTMENT

ROBERTO FLORES - 2ND SHIFT/WEEKEND CUSTODIAN - MAINE EAST

Start Date: November 21, 2024 (replaces MM)

Salary: \$21.83 per hour plus \$2,040.00 annual shift stipend

C. SUPPORT STAFF RESIGNATION

ANDREW HOFFMAN - MAINTENANCE PLUMBER - MAINE SOUTH (6/27/2022)

Resignation effective December 6, 2024

AIDA FUENTES - SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER ASSISTANT - MAINE EAST (9/5/2024)

Resignation effective November 29, 2024

PAUL HUNTER - SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER ASSISTANT - MAINE EAST (8/9/2023)

Resignation effective December 20, 2024

D. CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT

BETH ANN BALL - MATHEMATICS TEACHER - MAINE SOUTH (8/22/2002)

Retirement effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year

PETER NILSEN - MATHEMATICS TEACHER - MAINE SOUTH (8/20/1998)

Retirement effective at the end of the 2027-2028 school year

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves for the official records the previously mentioned personnel items as appended.

Motion on 19A-D as appended by Dean Patras, second by Jin Lee

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

20. OTHER ITEMS

There were no other items.

*21. OTHER BUSINESS - APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

A. November 4, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the Closed Session Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on November 4, 2024.

Motion by Jin Lee, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

Abstain: Coyle, Patras

*22. ACTION ON OTHER CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no other closed session items.

*23. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution: Motion to Adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Motion by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Collins, Coyle, Eicker, Lee, Owen, Patras, Yousuf-Abramson

Nay: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Yousuf-Abramson adjourned the Board meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Ginny Edwards, Secretary

Sheila Yousuf-Abramson, President