

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 6, 2025

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 January 6, 2025.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Yousuf-Abramson called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:00 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  
Shawn Messmer  
George Dagres  
Katie DiSanza  
Mary Kalou  
Ginny Edwards  
Brett Clark  
Melissa Pikul  
Antwan Babakhani  
Eileen McMahon

Dr. Bonuma presented an award to Dr. Nisha Hakhu and thanked her for her many years of service as Medical Director of our School Based Health Centers. Dr. Bonuma spoke of Dr. Hakhu's dedication and determination and for being a champion for District 207 students. Dr. Hakhu managed complex medical cases and ensured that students received the care they needed. Dr. Hakhu is appreciated and will be missed by so many.

2. 207'S BEST FOR ELECTIVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

A. Maine South - Laith Tannous

Maine South Principal Dr. Antwan Babakhani introduced Laith Tannous as South's 207's Best for Academic Achievement. Dr. Babakhani began by saying that Laith not only excels academically, but stands out as a leader and collaborative peer. Besides taking a rigorous course load, Laith is passionate about fine arts and is a member of the band, wind ensemble and section leader for the Drumline. Laith is also involved in track, soccer and weightlifting, earning him scholar athlete awards. Additionally he is in NHS, Science NHS and is an inclusion assistant for Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation. Laith is described as organized, driven, respectful, and always brings positivity. Laith introduced his family and plans to study electrical and computer engineering and also hopes to join a Drumline in college.

B. Maine East - Alexander Mitev

Maine East Principal Dr. Melissa Pikul introduced Alexander Mitev as East's 207's Best for Academic Achievement. Dr. Pikul said that Alex has a natural affinity for math, excelling in the most rigorous math courses as well as AP courses across all departments. Alex's involvement on the Math Team led him to compete on the national level at Yale, Berkeley and Princeton. Further, Alex is a dedicated violinist and participates in Orchestra and Demon Strings. His teachers say he leads by example, is brilliant and committed to excellence, is hardworking, selfless, kind, and humble in nature. Alex reminds himself that success is often overshadowed by a long line of failures. Alex introduced his parents, thanking them for their support, and plans to study mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech or Carnegie Mellon.

### C. Maine West - Elizabeth Stettner

Maine West Principal Dr. Eileen McMahon introduced Elizabeth Stettner as West's 207's Best for Academic Achievement. Dr. McMahon remarked that although her Dad and uncles attended Maine West, Elizabeth created her own legacy as she has made an impact as a Warrior. Elizabeth likes to learn and figure out challenging things, especially with a group of peers. She created her own new experiences in taking up violin and golf, participating in Environmental Club, Orchestra, Warrior Strings, Maine West Student Ministry, Westerner and volunteering at the library. Elizabeth's teachers say that she is a dedicated learner who strives for excellence, is thoughtful, reflective, kind, patient, and always willing to help someone struggling. Elizabeth introduced her parents and brother and plans to study nursing or chiropractic care.

## 3. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. Update from Superintendent

Dr. Bonuma mentioned the upcoming international career professional visit of eight teachers from South Korea on January 8, 2025. Dr. Pikul and Dr. Babakhani put together a nice itinerary which included building tours and lunch with students followed by a Q and A session. Later in the month, the schools will be hosting students from South Korea.

Dr. Bonuma then acknowledged Vision 2030, a joint collaboration with IASA, IASB, IASBO. The alliance worked together to create this call to action for policymakers, educators and community stakeholders to prepare students for their future. The five areas of focus are future focused learning, shared accountability, predictable funding, safety and well-being, and advocacy for educational policy. The summary was prepared by Dr. Shawn Messmer, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Innovation. The administration is recommending adoption of the resolution to support Vision 2030.

### B. Updates from Board Members

Member Lee thanked Dr. Bonuma for the educational opportunities the District is providing for Busan educators and students to visit District 207 this month. Mr. Lee also mentioned the American Legion Des Plaines Post 36 is offering high school boys the opportunity to go to Eastern IL University to learn about how to conduct and run a government system. The cost will be offset by Post 36. Members of the Des Plaines Legion will be attending the February Board of Education meeting.

President Yousuf-Abramson wished all a Happy New Year and good energy for the year to come.

### C. Finance Committee Update - December 16, 2024

Member Patras updated the Board on the Finance Committee meeting held on December 16, 2024. Several items were on the agenda for discussion. Ms. Mary Kalou, Assistant Superintendent for Business, updated the committee on the budget goals for 2025, noting goal prep begins in November, and will include the master schedule and salary parameters. The prediction is a jump in TIF revenue and ending the year with a surplus of \$3-5 million. Salaries are based on CPI which is expected to come in just over 3%. The annual PTAB report reviews assessments the District intervenes in due to requests exceeding \$100,000. The District is working with Franczek to intervene at the Board of Review level. There was good news to share in the TIF update in that the District is accessing taxes as the TIFs are creating new EAV growth. The SSCRM pool for which the District is a member, has experienced a third year of challenging insurance coverage renewal. The cost increase for D207 will be 9.46% where the other pool members will be at approximately 14.3%. Lastly, the current contract for our postage machines is up and the USPS will no longer accept mail run through these machines. The District recommends a 63-month lease with Quadient for postage machines at all District locations at a total cost of \$34,902.00.

### D. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update - December 16, 2024

Member Collins updated the Board on the Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting held on December 16, 2024. Ms. Kalou and Director of Buildings and Grounds Mr. Dave Ulm, laid out revised plans for creating gender neutral bathrooms at the District Office. The plans comply with school code and are ADA compliant. With the approximate cost at \$250,000, the committee requested exploring other options. The District recommends a contract with J. L. Adler Roofing to complete summer roofing at South at a cost of \$2,167,000 plus \$264,700 for alternate 1. The bid is under budget and comes with a 30-year warranty. Tuckpointing is needed at South as part of regular summer maintenance. Local company, IW & G, Inc. is recommended to complete the project at a cost of \$470,140.00.

#### E. Public Comments

The following people made public comments at the meeting:

Leslie Williams spoke in support of Dr. Sawsan Jaber.  
Daniel Schwartz spoke of discomfort with the book, "Night".  
Simona Bogong spoke in support of the book, "Night".  
Carlos Gallo spoke about critical race theory.  
Sandy Flores spoke in support of Dr. Sawsan Jaber.  
Joseph Milburn spoke in support of Dr. Sawsan Jaber.  
Jihan Chehade spoke in support of Dr. Sawsan Jaber.  
Yahaira Diaz spoke in support of Dr. Sawsan Jaber.  
Ahmed Alsanausi spoke in support of Dr. Sawsan Jaber.

#### 4. MONTHLY STATUS OF FINANCES

##### A. Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Kalou reported that revenues are slightly up from previous years due to early collection of property taxes. All other funds are in line with the budget.

##### B. Budget Parameters & Timeline 2025-2026

The report included a timeline and assumptions for the 2025-2026 budget. The information is presented to the Board giving the Board time to intervene prior to the publishing of the tentative budget on July 1. It is predicted that CPI will be slightly above 3% and the year end budget will show a surplus of \$3-5 million.

##### C. SSCRMP Renewal

The District's property/liability insurance has a January renewal. The District is happy with the insurance pool as it is the most cost effective. The District saw an 11.47% increase due in part to an increase in cyber coverage from \$1 million to \$2 million, (9.49% increase without the cyber coverage). This is tentative information as the access level is still being negotiated.

##### D. Property Tax Refunds

This report covers refunds requested over \$5,000.00, refunds settled, outstanding refunds and revenue preserved. The last reassessment was in 2022 and 2025 is another reassessment year.

##### E. TIF Update

Ms. Kalou ran through the active TIFs in Park Ridge, Des Plaines, Niles and Rosemont. The District is receiving taxes from the new EAV growth.

#### 5. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

No reports this month.

#### 6. OTHER ITEMS

##### A. Monthly FOIA Requests for December 2024

There were three FOIA requests for the month of December 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*

1. Public Hearing on Tax Levy - December 2, 2024
2. Regular Board of Education Meeting - December 2, 2024

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the minutes of the Public Hearing on December 2, 2024 and the Regular Board of Education Meeting on December 2, 2024.

*B. BOARD BILLS - DECEMBER 2024*

That the Board of Education approves Board bills dated December 31, 2024 in the amount of \$2,213,713.77.

Fund Totals as follows:

DISTRICT 207: \$2,190,932.31  
NSERVE: 18,614.97  
ED-RED: 4,166.49

*C. PAYROLLS – DECEMBER 2024*

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

DISTRICT 207: \$10,097,146.02  
NSERVE: 19,695.78  
ED-RED: 19,908.00

*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 month of November 2024.

*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. Anonymous Donor - \$8,000.00 - 2025 Maine West Scholarships
2. Park Ridge Rotary Charitable Foundation - \$800.00 - WGN Toy Drive
3. Lakeshore Athletic Services - \$2,050.00 - Maine East Boys Wrestling
4. Maine West Athletic Boosters - \$13,139.04 - Maine West Athletic Programs
5. Patrick Manning - \$1,000.00 - Maine East Girls Wrestling
6. Ralph E. Milito LTD - \$1,000.00 - Maine East Girls Wrestling
7. MTHS Foundation - \$700.00 - Maine East Photo Class field trip to Botanic Gardens
8. Maine South Athletic Boosters - \$3,000.00 - Maine South Athletic Trainer Tables

Motion on 7A-E by Teri Collins, second by Linda Coyle

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Eicker

**\*8. APPROVAL OF BIDS AND AWARDING OF CONTRACTS**

A. Quadient Direct - Postage Machine Lease

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves a contract with Quadient Direct to lease four postage machines for a term of 63 months in the amount of \$34,902.00.

A number of districts use this machine. All of our school locations are a part of this contract which is beneficial to the District.

Motion by Dean Patras, second by Linda Coyle

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

Absent: Eicker

B. J. L. Adler Roofing and Sheet Metal - Maine South Roofing

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves a contract with J. L. Adler Roofing and Sheet Metal for roof replacement at Maine South in the amount of \$2,167,000.00 and alternate bid of \$264,700.00 for a total contract price of \$2,431,700.00.

J. L. Adler was the lowest responsive bidder of six bids received. The contract price with the addition of the alternate came in below budget.

Motion by Carla Owen, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

C. I.W. & G. Inc. - Tuckpointing - Maine South

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves a contract with I.W. & G. Inc. in the total amount of \$470,140.00.

Nine bids were received and scoped. IW&G is based in Des Plaines, was the lowest responsive bidder, and the contract includes a \$40,000.00 contingency.

Motion by Linda Coyle, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

#### \*9. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH GOLDEN APPLE

Resolution: That the Board of Education enters into a partnership agreement with the Golden Apple Foundation to recruit, select and support Scholars for the Golden Apple Scholars program placed at Maine Township High School District 207 through June 30, 2028 as presented.

This partnership will help in recruiting teachers beginning with students in their sophomore year of college. This will give the District exposure to the teacher pool in addition to going to job fairs.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Teri Collins

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

#### 10. CALENDAR ITEMS

January 13, 2025

Finance Committee - 4:30 p.m.

Policy Committee - immediately follows

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 20, 2025  
No School

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

February 3, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

February 10, 2025  
Finance Committee - 5:00 p.m.  
Buildings & Grounds immediately follows

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 14, 2025  
No school for students

INSTITUTE DAY

February 17, 2025  
No School

PRESIDENTS DAY

#### 11. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no other communications.

#### \*15. 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 7:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Closed Session Minutes and Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance or Dismissal of Specific Employees.

Motion by Jin Lee, second by Teri Collins

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

#### \*13. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resolution: That the Board returns to open session at 9:47 p.m.

Motion by Jin Lee, second by Ed Eicker

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

#### \*14. PERSONNEL ACTION

##### A. SUPPORT STAFF RESIGNATION

HANNAH DUCHARME - SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER ASSISTANT - MAINE EAST TRANSITION (8/11/2021)  
Resigning from full time employment and continuing with part time employment beginning January 6, 2025

TEDDY SULLIVAN - MAINTENANCE - MAINE EAST (8/12/2024)  
Resignation effective December 25, 2024

## B. SUPPORT STAFF APPOINTMENT

ZORNITSA BORISOVA - 10-MONTH SECURITY - MAINE WEST

Start Date: December 20, 2024 (replaces JP)

Salary: Step 1, \$18.40 per hour plus \$500 annual shift stipend

GARY CUNNINGHAM - SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER ASSISTANT - MAINE EAST MTTP

Start Date: January 6, 2025 (replaces HD)

Salary: Step 1, \$22.13 per hour plus \$.75 p/h education stipend

DAMARIS GONZALEZ - LITERACY TEACHER ASSISTANT - MAINE EAST

Start Date: January, 2025 (replaces KC)

Salary: Step 1, \$22.13 per hour plus \$.55 p/h education stipend

ANDREW SCHWICH - SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER ASSISTANT - MAINE EAST

Start Date: January 6, 2025 (replaces contacted TA)

Salary: Step 11, \$29.74 per hour plus \$.75 p/h education stipend

ANTON RICHARDSON - LITERACY TEACHER ASSISTANT - MAINE EAST

Start Date: January 6, 2025 (rehired)

Salary: Step 6, \$25.65 per hour plus \$.75 p/h education stipend

## C. CERTIFIED STAFF REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

LEAH JACKSON - SOCIAL WORKER - MAINE SOUTH (8/11/2021)

Requesting a leave of absence from December 18, 2024 - February 18, 2025

KATE LEE - CHOIR TEACHER - MAINE EAST (8/9/2018)

Requesting a leave of absence from May 12, 2025 - May 30, 2025

## D. SUPPORT STAFF RETIREMENT

KAREN GEORGALAS - PAYROLL SPECIALIST - DISTRICT 207 (11/08/1999)

Retirement effective June 30, 2025

ILIANA GARCIA - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/P-CARDS - DISTRICT 207 (9/15/1997)

Retirement effective April 15, 2025

## CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION

SANDRA LAPOINTE - SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER - MAINE EAST (8/13/2015)

Resignation effective January 6, 2025

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

Motion on 14A-D as appended by Jin Lee, second by Dean Patras

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

## 15. OTHER INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There were no other items

**\*16. OTHER BUSINESS APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

A. Regular Board Meeting - December 2, 2024

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the Closed Session Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on December 2, 2024.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Carla Owen

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

**\*17. ACTION ON OTHER CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

A. Support Staff Termination - Employee #010625-1

Resolution: That the Board of Education approves the recommendation for termination of support staff employee #010625-1.

Motion by Ed Eicker, second by Linda Coyle

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

**\*18. ADJOURNMENT**

Resolution: Motion to Adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:49 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 9:49 p.m.

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Ginny Edwards, Secretary

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Sheila Yousuf-Abramson, President