

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel - President, Louis Melton – Vice President, Robert Johnson, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

President Karen Diel called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Ms. Karen Diel.

The next item was a moment of silence for –

- Mollie Keys- Retired Cafeteria Worker
- Sandra Bracy- Teacher
- Melba Parker- Retired Teacher
- Ethel Norris- Retired Bus Driver

Ms. Karen Diel led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call to Establish a Quorum: Present - Karen Diel - President, Louis Melton – Vice President, Robert Johnson, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin, and Adrin Williams

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the agenda. *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was recognitions:

- **GUMBO Students-** Qualified for Nationals- Donovan Brown, Jamarion Hampton, Leonitous Floyd, David Smith, Jalilah Sims, Jaelin Barthol and Zamiya Grant
- **September & October Employee of the Month –** Transportation – Jeanette Bonner and Michael Sneed were recognized and presented with a plaque and gift card.
- **October Employee of the Month – Custodian/ Maintenance Department-** Leo Montgomery was recognized and in his absence, Tony Roberts received his plaque and gift card on his behalf.
- **November Employee of the Month – Morehouse Magnet School-** Angie Morris was recognized, and in her absence, Dr. Pullen received her plaque and gift card.
- **Ross Downs –** was recognized for his support of GUMBO.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements –

- Mr. Brian Fontenot gave updates and descriptions regard the wind project. Projections were based on 5 wind turbines.
- Mr. Lyn Kenley- Gave updates on the ESSER projects and reported the restroom projects are behind schedule, and anticipating they be completed by November 30th. Phase III is being drawn up by the architects and bids will be taken in January of 2024.
- Superintendent Gray stated his contract ends in December 2024, and will not be seeking an extension of contract. If he chooses to retire before then, he will let the board know in a timely manner.

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes – The Regular School Board Meeting held on October 3, 2023 at 5:30 pm. *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was Approval of monthly Travel Requests – *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was Approval of monthly Bus Requests-*On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the monthly bus request, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on October 24, 2023. (Presented by Mr. Rick Hixon)

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 5:30 pm. **Rick Hixon-Chairperson** called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: **Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson and Adrin Williams.** Also, present were **Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin, Mrs. Debbie Wilson, David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.**

The following agenda items were presented to the Finance and Advisory Committee:

1. To receive the Sales Tax Funds report for September 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for September 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

2. To receive the General Fund report for September 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for September 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

3. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for September 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for September 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

4. To receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for September 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for September 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

5. To receive the ESSER Funds report for September 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the ESSER Funds report for September 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

6. To receive the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons on the funds below.
 - A. Sales Tax Funds
 - B. General Fund
 - C. School Lunch Fund
 - D. East Morehouse Tax Fund
 - E. ESSER Funds
 - F. Special Revenue Funds

On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly and year-to-date budget to actual comparisons for the Sales Tax Funds, General Fund, School Lunch Fund, East Morehouse Tax Fund, ESSER Funds, and Special Revenue Funds, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

7. To receive an update on the October 1 MFP Count. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *This was report only.*
8. To receive an update on the current balance of the ESSER construction loan. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *This was presentation only.*

MEETING ADJOURNED.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the Pupil Progression Plan for the 2023-2024 School Year. (Presented by Ms. Katie Henderson) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Pupil Progression Plan for the 2023-2024 School Year, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to approve the purchase for a new intercom system for Bastrop High School. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to authorize the superintendent to take those actions necessary to purchase a new intercom system for Bastrop High School, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously. Discussion was made by Ms. Adrin Williams with a quote from a friend with information as provided in board packets. Ms. Adrin Williams gave that information to Mr. Tony Roberts to investigate.*

The next item on the agenda was to consider and adopt the School Mental Health Counselor Job Description and Performance Responsibilities. (Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the School Mental Health Counselor Job Description and Performance Responsibilities, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid for the Child Nutrition Program Food Truck. (Presented by Ms. Ashley White) *Cruising Kitchens bid was accepted. This was information only.*

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bids for used buses/vehicles. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to accept the high bid on the bid tally sheet items 1-18, Tommy Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to grant permission to advertise the Lease of land for hunting purposes in Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 4 East, containing approximately 642 acres, (just above the "Beanfield" in northwest area of the parish) for five years. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to grant permission to advertise the Lease of land for hunting purposes in Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 4 East, containing approximately 642 acres, (just above the "Beanfield" in northwest area of the parish) for five years, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to grant permission to advertise the Lease of land for farming/agricultural purposed in Section 38, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, which is utilized currently as agricultural property, approximately 35 acres, more or less, lying East of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad track, sometimes known as the Delta School Farm, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to grant permission to advertise the Lease of land for farming/agricultural purposed in Section 38, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, which is utilized currently as agricultural property, approximately 35 acres, more or less, lying East of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad track, sometimes known as the Delta School Farm, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (October 2023). (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***This was presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was "To authorize the superintendent to advertise for the sale of Cherry Ridge Elementary School at the appraised value of \$40,000.00 and to grant the superintendent the authority to execute all necessary documents." (Requested by Mrs. Debbie Wilson) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to authorize the superintendent to advertise for the sale of Cherry Ridge Elementary School at the appraised value of \$40,000.00 and to grant the superintendent the authority to execute all necessary documents, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon.***

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel- Yes
Louis Melton- Yes
Robert Johnson- Yes
Rick Hixon- Yes
Debbie Wilson-Yes
Veronica Tappin-No
Adrin Williams-No

The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Adrin Williams stated the appraisal is inadequate.

The next item on the agenda was "To discuss and take the necessary action to add a women and men's restroom in the 7th and 8th grade building at Bastrop High School. (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***Lyn Kenley is looking into this, or an estimate will be needed.***

The next item on the agenda was "To request updates from the Transportation Department on the items below." (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams)

- Routes
- Updated information regarding carbon from the trees.
- Timber cutting
- Buses old/new

- Bus aides

This was presentation only.

The next item on the agenda was "To discuss and take the appropriate action to have monthly or quarterly statements given to those organizations that use buses to attend events." Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was "To discuss the replacement or the addition of lights in specific areas at Bastrop High School. (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *Mr. Tony Roberts will look into this.*

The next item on the agenda was "To discuss the possibility of adding to or changing the sound system at Bastrop High School. (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *There is a quote from Matts Music, and Principal Taylor will get a quote from Matts Music for speakers at the stadium.*

The next item on the agenda was "To present the superintendent a copy of his annual evaluation and to place the original evaluation in his personnel file." (Presented by Ms. Karen Diel) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to present the superintendent a copy of his annual evaluation and to place the original evaluation in his personnel file, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Ms. Arin Williams opposed. The motion passed 5-2.*

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment: **None for this meeting**

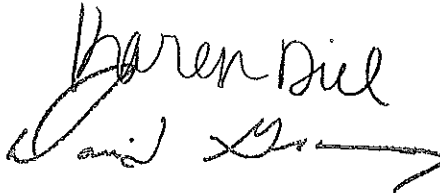
The next item on the agenda was Personnel:

- a. Personnel Report (See Attachment)

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Karen Diel, President

Ms. Karen Diel, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent

Handwritten signatures of Karen Diel and David Gray. The signature of Karen Diel is written in cursive and is positioned above the signature of David Gray, which is also in cursive and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.