

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on February 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, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams . Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

Absent-Rick Hixon

President Karen Diel called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silence for - Betty Rhodus Williams – Retired teacher

Ms. Karen Diel led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent-Rick Hixon

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the agenda. ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to amend the agenda with moving item 30 to item 11-A, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin.***

Roll call vote:

Karen Diel- Yes

Louis Melton – Yes

Robert Johnson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Absent

Debbie Wilson – Yes

Veronica Loche-Tappin – Yes

Adrin Williams - Yes

The next item on the agenda was to approve the amended agenda. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was recognitions:

- January Employee of the month, Morehouse Elementary, Taneka Yanez. Mrs. Yanez received a plaque.
- February Employee of the month, Bastrop High School, Charles Jones. Mr. Jones received a plaque.
- Superintendent Gray recognized Mrs. Debbie Wilson as the outgoing School Board President for 2022. Mrs. Debbie Wilson did receive a plaque.

- Superintendent Gray recognized Morehouse Parish School Board members for all of their hard work for Morehouse Parish. Dinner was provided for each member.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements – ***Mr. Gray gave updates on the Aquaponics trip to Baton Rouge. On February 16th and 17th a BESE Board member will be visiting our parish, helping with the setup of our Aquaponics System.***

Volkert- Lyn Kenley gave updates on the parish ESSER III Artificial turf and track. Contracts for other property are to be bid around the 1st of May. The construction will not be completed in 3 months. The turf is completed and the logo is still a work in progress. The track is under progress. If there is extra funding after construction on the ESSER III, other items which were deleted because of overall price increases may be revisited. Mr. Gray spoke about Carbon Capture, Cooperation's mass producing carbon dioxide. Three or less board members can meet because of the Sunshine Law will meet for clarification on updates regarding Carbon Capture. We will be contacting board members toward the end of this week to make appointments schedules for board members.

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on January 10, 2023. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, 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 Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and take necessary action to choose a voluntary insurance carrier based from the Insurance Committee recommendation. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to accept EBI Insurance carrier based on the Insurance Committee recommendation, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***Mr. Davenport was out of town at a meeting. Per Ms. Adrin Williams January and February report will be for March monthly meeting.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the 2022 School Report for Beekman Charter School. (Presented by Ms. Emily Myrick) This was presentation only.

The next item on the agenda was to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in School District Number A (Parishwide) of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds therein. BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish School Board of the Parish Morehouse, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of School District Number A (Parishwide) of the Parish of

Morehouse, State of Louisiana (the "District"), that: SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 33 thereof, Part II of Chapter 4 of Subtitle II of Title 39, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the District on SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit: PROPOSITION (BOND) Shall School District Number A (Parishwide) of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana, incur debt and issue bonds not exceeding \$6,000,000, in one or more series, to run not exceeding 20 years from date thereof, with interest at a rate not exceeding 7% per annum, for the purpose of financing capital expenditures for school purposes for the District, including constructing, acquiring and/or improving schools and other school related facilities, together with equipment and furnishings therefor, title to which shall be in the public; which bonds will be general obligations of the District and will be payable from ad valorem taxes to be levied and collected in the manner provided by Article VI, Section 33 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974 and statutory authority supplemental thereto, with no increase in the estimated millage rate to be levied in the first year of issue above the 10 mills currently being levied to pay General Obligation Bonds of the District. *On motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson,*

Roll call vote:

Karen Diel- Yes

Louis Melton – Yes

Robert Johnson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Absent

Debbie Wilson – Yes

Veronica Loche-Tappin – No

Adrin Williams – No

The motion passed

The next item on the agenda was to receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on January 24, 2023.

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

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

1. To receive the Sales Tax Funds report for December 2022. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for December 2022, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 December 2022. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for December 2022, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 December 2022. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for December 2022, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 December 2022. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for December 2022, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

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

5. To request permission to form an Insurance Committee for the 2022-2023 Voluntary and Supplemental Insurance Benefits plan year. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mrs. Debbie Wilson to authorize Ms. Ersula Downs to form a committee to review and recommend Voluntary and Supplemental Insurance Benefit plans, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

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

6. To discuss forming a committee to propose what Capital projects will be included in the April 29th Bond Refinance Election. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve a committee to propose what Capital projects will be included in the April 29th Bond Refinance Elections, consisting of Ersula Downs (CFO), David Gray(Superintendent) and Karen Diel (Board President), and any others they may select, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

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

MEETING ADJOURNED.

The next item on the agenda was to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bids on property located at 4619 Keller Avenue, Collinston, LA with a minimum bid of the appraised value of \$70,000.00 and to grant the Superintendent the authority to execute all necessary documents. (Requested by Mr. David Gray, presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bids on property located at 4619 Keller Avenue, Collinston, LA with a minimum bid of the appraised value of \$70,000.00 and to grant the Superintendent the authority to execute all necessary documents, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and recommend approval of the revised Morehouse Parish School Board Sexual Harassment Policy, policy F-9.31 together with its attached Title IX Grievance Procedures for Student Reports of Complaints of Sexual Harassment and related form as a “First Reading”. (Presented by Dr. Dana Boockoff). On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the revised Morehouse Parish School Board Sexual Harassment Policy, policy F-9.31 together with its attached Title IX Grievance Procedures for Student Reports of Complaints of Sexual Harassment and related form as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the School Board Member Training Resolution for the year 2022. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the School Board Member Training Resolution for the year 2022, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the amended policy F-9.12b, Time Keeping Policy for Nonexempt Employees, subparagraph G and C (Regarding running extra routes) as a “**Second Reading**”. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to receive and adopt the amended policy F-9.12b, Time Keeping Policy for Nonexempt Employees, subparagraph G and C (Regarding running extra routes) as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take necessary actions regarding approval for Education First Educational Tours International Travel program – Dominican Republic – summer 2024. (Presented by Mrs. Rachael Peralta and Principal Marilyn Taylor) ***On a motion of Mrs. Wilson to approve Education First Educational Tours International Travel program – Dominican Republic – summer 2024, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and consider taking necessary actions to require a minimum of 15 students for each classroom at Morehouse Magnet School for the 2023-2024

year.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to require a minimum of 15 students for each classroom at Morehouse Magnet School for the 2023-2024 year.*** ***There was no second and the motion failed.***

The next item on the agenda was “Update from the Transportation Department” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams), “Update on timber cutting for Transportation Department” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) “Discuss in school suspension” (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to table these items until March 14, 2023 monthly board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to revise the letters sent to students/parents concerning suspensions and expulsions.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***There was discussion and Mrs. Veronica Tappin will follow up with Mr. Ralph Davenport.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss the time revision for Bastrop High School.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was taken care of previously, so no action necessary.***

The next item on the agenda was “What is the status of hiring a counselor at Bastrop High School?” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was taken care of previously, so no action necessary.***

The next item on the agenda was “How are out of state consultants hired and from what fund are they paid?” (Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider and adopt the proposed revision for the Central Office Receptionist Job Descriptions/Responsibilities. (Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt the proposed revision for the Central Office Receptionist Job Descriptions/Responsibilities, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the list was Public Comment: None submitted 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