

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on June 6, 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, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

**Absent- Rick Hixon and Debbie Wilson**

President Karen Diel called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mr. Louis Melton.

The next item on the agenda was a moment of silence for –

- Dolores Crook – Retired Paraprofessional

Ms. Karen Diel led the pledge of allegiance.

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

**Absent- Rick Hixon and Debbie Wilson**

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

The next item on the agenda was recognitions: LDOE Selected Artwork for the U.S. Department of Education’s 2023 Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC Summer Symposium. *This will be presented at the July monthly meeting.*

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent’s Announcements – *Mr. Gray gave updates on the Aquaponics system at Bastrop High School, they are trying to train the fish to eat bigger food than what they started on originally. The pool for robotics is in progress. Bathrooms in schools are under demolition for the summer, for preparation for improvements to be made.*

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on May 4, 2023. *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, 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 Mr. Robert Johnson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was Approval of monthly Bus Requests- *None from schools for this meeting.*

The next item on the agenda was “To introduce the board to NOVA/NELA, a non-profit organization, who can assist our students and members of the community by providing funding for school and finding gainful employment after schooling is completed.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mr. Paul West, Executive Director and Ms. Juanita Woods Deputy Director) *This was presentation only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and receive from Project Manager a list of all projects, small or large, completed or incomplete.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams, Presented by Volkert Lyn Kenley)

***Demolition has begun at the schools. Modular building have been ordered. Tow boards were voted to be installed on the track at Bastrop High School. Bastrop High school Rams logo was signed off for approval.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Sales Tax Funds report for April 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for April 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the General Fund report for April 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for April 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the School Lunch Fund report for April 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for April 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for April 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for April 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to select the Ouachita Citizen as the official journal of the Morehouse Parish School Board from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to select the Ouachita Citizen as the official journal of the Morehouse Parish School Board from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. One opposed (Mr. Louis Melton), the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was to present a request and take necessary action for the use of a school bus for the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field Program to transport their track team to the following track meets:

- Invitational Meet, Mansfield, LA on June 17, 2023
- USATF Southern Championship Jr Olympic, McComb, Mississippi On June 23-25, 2023
- USATF Region 6 Junior Championships, Baton Rouge, LA on July 6-9, 2023
- USATF Jr Olympic Championship University of Oregon's Hayward Field on July 25-31, 2023

(Requested by Ms. Margaret Cotton, Presented by Mr. David Gray)

***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the use of a school bus for the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field Program to transport their track team to the following track meets:***

- ***Invitational Meet, Mansfield, LA on June 17, 2023***
- ***USATF Southern Championship Jr Olympic, McComb, Mississippi On June 23-25, 2023***
- ***USATF Region 6 Junior Championships, Baton Rouge, LA on July 6-9, 2023***
- ***USATF Jr Olympic Championship University of Oregon's Hayward Field on July 25-31, 2023***

***With the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field Program providing a certificate of insurance. Seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed and the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was to present a request on behalf of the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field program to use Bastrop High Tracks from May 25 – July 31, 2023.

***(Requested by Ms. Margaret Cotton, Presented by Mr. David Gray) On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the request on behalf of the City of Bastrop Parks and Recreation Track and Field program to use Bastrop High Tracks from May 25 – July 31, 2023, as long as it doesn't interfere with construction on or around the track, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive an update on the 11 million bank loan with Capital One or the bank granting the loan.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was presentation only.***

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

The next item on the agenda was to consider adopting an amendment to policy H-3.4c-2 Student Usage of Cell Phones, Electronic Devices, Games and Toys by substituting two new paragraphs for the old first paragraph and amending the fifth paragraph as a “Second Reading”. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider adopting an amendment to the fifth paragraph of policy H-3.6f as a “Second Reading” so it will now read Each student participating in the fight will give his/her account of the incident to the school administrator. The school administrator may require the student to write an account of the incident. If a student's participation in the fight is deemed as self-defense, no punishment will be issued to that participant. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and consider taking the necessary action for having sixth grade graduations at different times or days, and with caps and gowns.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the list 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