

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on May 4, 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 Mr. Rick Hixon.

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

- Rosie Hobbs – Retired Custodian
- Sara Nell Woodall Younger – 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, 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. Louis Melton to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

**The next item on the agenda was recognitions:**

- **Employee of the month-** *Bastrop High School, Shalonda Coleman received a plaque.*
- **JAG Achievement Award** – *First place Jaylon Anderson and Christian Hawkins*
- **JAG Community Service Award** – *Kayla Palmer and Haley Archie*
- **JAG Academic Achievement Award** – *Jamiya Young and Karmen McCoy*
- **Recognize Morehouse parish School District’s newly certified teachers.** – *(Delta Elementary, Amy Barton, Christy Parker, Yunterria Tatum) (Morehouse Elementary Raven Jackson) (Morehouse Magnet Danyelle Long) (Bastrop High, Raven Washington and Angel Coleman)*
- **Recognize Morehouse Parish Schools’ Certified Mentor Teachers** – *(Morehouse Elementary Jermica Dee, Lakeachie Sears, Taneka Yanez, and Missi Elliot (Delta Elementary, Holly Hobson, Jeanette Tillery, Lakesha Reynolds, Carkinda Trotter and Shelia Davenport), (Bastrop High School, Helen I.P. Smith), (Morehouse Magnet. Hunter Harris, Cheryl Walker and Ashley Allen, (Morehouse Student Services, Jackie Wilmore)*

**The next item on the agenda was Superintendent’s Announcements** – *Ms. Katie Henderson spoke on Bulletin 1566 that passed by the Legislation. Third and fourth grade students must take an end of year assessment if they fail. The student has to do thirty days summer school 2023-2024 also. Morehouse Parish is trying to get a plan in place. This is to see if students can take two week courses. Several plans are being worked on. If the students has an IEP they don’t have to take it.*

*Dr. Boockoff explained announced the Special Olympics competition will be at Bastrop High School on May 5<sup>th</sup> 9:45-1:00. Around 150 students will be competing. In case of rain it will be held inside. Morehouse Parish students competed at ULM Special Olympics.*

*Teresa Merritt spoke on Pre- Education Pathway which will mainly be at Bastrop High. It will be at Morehouse Magnet School and Beekman Charter (Dual enrollment courses). There will be a job fair held on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 and June 9<sup>th</sup>. May Madness is this weekend on the courthouse square and Morehouse Parish Schools will have a booth.*

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on April 6, 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 to receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on April 25, 2023.

**The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Rick Hixon-Chairperson called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Louis Melton, Robert Johnson and Adrin Williams. Also present were Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin, Mrs. Debbie Wilson, David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney. Absent- Ms. Karen Diel**

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

1. **To receive the Sales Tax Funds report for March 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for March 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 March 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for March 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 March 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for March 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 March 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for March 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 quarterly budget to actual comparisons on the funds below.
  - A. Sales Tax Funds
  - B. General Fund
  - C. School Lunch Fund
  - D. East Morehouse Tax Fund

**On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly budget to actual comparisons for the Sales Tax Funds, General Fund, School Lunch Fund, and East Morehouse Tax Fund for the first quarter of 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***

6. To receive the Semi- annual budget to actual comparisons on all funds below:
  - A. Sales Tax Funds
  - B. General Fund
  - C. School Lunch Fund
  - D. East Morehouse Tax Fund
  - E. Special Revenue Funds

**On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Semi-annual budget to actual comparisons for the Sales Tax Funds, General Fund, School Lunch Fund, East Morehouse Tax Fund, and Special Revenue Funds for 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***

7. To receive a report on the MFP mid-year adjustment. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *This was report only.*
8. Request to receive quotes for Student accident insurance. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) **On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to grant authority to receive quotes for Student accident insurance, 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***

9. Request to receive quotes for Casualty insurance. ( Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) **On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to grant authority to receive quotes for Casualty insurance, 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***

10. **Request to change agent of record workers comp through LUBA insurance. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to grant authority to change agent of record workers comp through LUBA insurance, 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***

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

The next item on the agenda was New Business

Adopt the 2023 millage rate(s). (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs.) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the 2023 millage rates) resolution, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson.***

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Karen Diel- Yes*

*Louis Melton- Yes*

*Robert Johnson- Yes*

*Rick Hixon- Yes*

*Debbie Wilson- Yes*

*Veronica Tappin-Yes*

*Adrin Williams-Yes*

***The motion passed. A copy of the resolution is attached.***

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. Rick Hixon, 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 Requests, seconded by Mr. Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the special election held in School District Number A (Parishwide) of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, April 29, 2023 to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds therein. (Presented by Ms. Karen Diel) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt a resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the result of the special election held in School District Number A (Parishwide) of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, April 29, 2023 to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds therein, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton.***

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Karen Diel- Yes*

*Louis Melton- Yes*

*Robert Johnson- Yes*

*Rick Hixon- Yes*

*Debbie Wilson- Yes*

*Veronica Tappin- Yes*

*Adrin Williams- Yes*

***The motion passed. A copy of the resolution is attached.***

The next item on the agenda was to request that the board accept the construction low bid from Gentry Construction Company for the ESSER III capitol improvement program in the amount of \$4,200,000. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs and Lyn Kenley) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to accept the construction low bid from Gentry Construction Company for the ESSER III capitol improvement program in the amount of \$4,200,000, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2023 Summer Work Schedule. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt a proposal for the 2023 Summer Work Schedule, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2023-2024 School Calendar effective July 1, 2023. (Presented by Mr. David Gray). ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt a proposal for the 2023-2024 School Calendar effective July 1, 2023, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2023-2024 Morehouse Parish School Board/Committee Meeting Schedule. (Presented by Ms. Karen Diel) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt a proposal for the 2023-2024 Morehouse Parish School Board/Committee Meeting Schedule, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, 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, for five years commencing August 1, 2023. (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, for five years commencing August 1, 2023 with the minimum bid of the last accepted bid, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bids on property located at 4619 Keller Avenue, Collinston, LA at 85% 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 Mr. Rick Hixon to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bids on property located at 4619 Keller Avenue, Collinston, LA at 85% 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, one opposed (Mr. Louis Melton) the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (April 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 “First Reading” (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport). ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to adopt 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 “First Reading, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion carried unanimously. A copy of the changes are attached.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider adopting an amendment to the fifth paragraph of policy H-3.6f as a “First 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. Debbie Wilson to adopt an amendment to the fifth paragraph of policy H-3.6f as a “First 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, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion carried unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to authorize the summer program at Bastrop High School and Delta Elementary School.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to authorize the summer program at Bastrop High School and Delta Elementary School, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion carried unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To list, discuss, compare and contrast the items that need to be repaired at schools.” (Information from all principals and Mr. Tony Roberts, Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was presentation 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