

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on October 4, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson – President, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams Vice-President. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

Absent- Tab Wilkerson

President Debbie Wilson called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mr. Rick Hixon.

A moment of silence was held for the following who died recently:

- Betty Dreher – Retired Teacher
- James Hodges – Retired
- Jimmy Luzader – Retired Teacher

Mrs. Debbie Wilson led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent- Tab Wilkerson

The next item on the agenda was to approve the agenda. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to amend the agenda adding item 8a “To discuss and take necessary action to address the concerns of students and employees at the protest held at Bastrop High School,” seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion passed. On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was recognitions: ***Quiet Heroes Employee of the month, Morehouse Elementary School Calvin Green, and Maintenance Department Leo Montgomery. Each employee received a plaque and a gift card from Thomas and Farr.***

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent’s Announcements – ***Lyn Kenley with Volkert gave updates on projects for Morehouse Parish School District. Bastrop High School Track and Turf are awaiting approval of the mascot for the logo. Students will vote on the logo design.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take necessary action to address the concerns of students and employees at the protest held at Bastrop High School. ***Chasity Kennedy and Charles Bradford spoke. Bastrop High School student Raniya Ross spoke. On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adjust the policy so students can't be suspended for 15 days for cell phone use, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin No vote was taken. Mr. Davenport will have another meeting with the Discipline Committee and Ms. Adrin Williams will replace Mr. Louis Melton on the Discipline Committee.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Public Hearing & Regular School Board Meeting held on September 8, 2022. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the amended minutes with Ms. Adrin Williams - Vice President adjourning the meeting, 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. Rick Hixon to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, 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 Report from the Finance and Advisory Committee Meeting, held Tuesday, September 27, 2022 (Presented by Mr. Rick Hixon)

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Rick Hixon- Chairperson called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Debbie Wilson, Adrin Williams. Also present were Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin, David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.

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

1. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the Sales Tax Funds update for August 2022. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve Sales Tax Funds report for August 2022, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed, the motion passed.
2. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the General Fund for August 2022. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve General Fund report for August 2022, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed.
3. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the School Lunch Fund for August 2022. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for August 2022, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed.
4. To receive a report from the East Morehouse Tax Committee. (Presented by the East Morehouse Tax Committee) ***This was report only.***
5. MEETING ADJOURNED.

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take necessary action to advertise for bids to reroof the Morehouse Student Services Building and Bastrop High School.” (Presented by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, Requested by Mrs. Debbie Wilson) ***Mr. Tony Roberts will get quotes for Morehouse Student Services Center and Morehouse Elementary School roofs. Mr. Rick Hixon would like the quotes presented at the Finance and Advisory meeting in November.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss the postponement of the Superintendent’s evaluation until the state releases more information regarding the 2021-2022 state test scores.” (Presented by Mrs. Debbie Wilson) ***This was an announcement.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt a revision to Overtime for School Bus Operators in section III B of policy F-9.12b as a “Second Reading”. (Presented as Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the revision to Overtime for School Bus Operators in section III B of policy F-9.12b as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt amendment to Policy E-1.7 section E on page 12.E as a “Second Reading”

E. All fees shall be paid to the Office of the Superintendent. Schools shall be reimbursed 25% of the charges levied on non-school sponsored or related activities.

On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to approve the amendment to Policy E-1.7 section E on page 12.E as a “Second Reading”

E. All fees shall be paid to the Office of the Superintendent. Schools shall be reimbursed 25% of the charges levied on non-school sponsored or related activities.

Seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the revision for Purchasing & Bids and Quotations Policy D-11 as a “Second Reading”. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the revision for Purchasing & Bids and Quotations Policy D-11 as a “Second Reading” seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the amended policy F-9.12b, sub-section I, items C. and D. as a “First Reading” (Time clock for bus drivers and bus aides). (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the amended policy F-9.12b, sub-section I, items C. and D. as a “First Reading” (Time clock for bus drivers and bus aides), seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the Intradistrict Public High School Program of Choice Policy, Act No. 533 as a “First Reading”. (Presented by Mrs. Theresa Emfinger) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the Intradistrict Public High School Program of Choice Policy, Act No. 533 as a “First Reading”, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the two resolutions to complete the Morehouse Parish School Board’s approval of liability insurance policy:

- Louisiana Public Schools Risk Management Agency Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Bodily Injury Resolution.
- LARMA INTERLOCAL Agreement Resolution

(Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the two resolutions to complete the Morehouse Parish School Board’s approval of liability insurance policy:

- ***Louisiana Public Schools Risk Management Agency Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Bodily Injury Resolution.***
- ***LARMA INTERLOCAL Agreement Resolution***

Seconded by Ms. Karen Diel, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and consider to take the necessary action to see if Morehouse Parish School Board is interested in getting an appraisal to start the bid process for Collinston Elementary Property and Gym. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve an appraisal to start the bid process for Collinston Elementary Property and Gym, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss requests and consider to take the necessary action to clarify Morehouse Parish School Board Policy on bus requests in relation to athletic trips. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams any bus request for an athletic group trip should be turned in directly to the Transportation Department as was done before April of 2022. , seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion carried.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and approve the job description and salary schedule for the Pupil Appraisal & Intervention Services Coordinator. (Presented by Dr. Dana Boockoff and Mrs. Teresa Merritt) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the job description and salary schedule for the Pupil Appraisal & Intervention Services Coordinator, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion carried unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to review and approve the changes to the Rubric for the Recruitment & Retention Initiative that was adopted/voted on April 4, 2022. (Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the changes to the Rubric for the Recruitment & Retention Initiative that was adopted/voted on April 4, 2022, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion carried unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to change the current highest grade level from the twelfth grade to the eighth grade at Morehouse Magnet School.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton, Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to change the current highest grade level from the twelfth grade to the eighth grade at Morehouse Magnet School.”, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams.***

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel – No

Louis Melton – Yes

Tab Wilkerson – Absent

Rick Hixon – No

Debbie Wilson – No

Veronica Tappin - Yes

Adrin Williams – Yes

The motion failed.

The next item on the agenda was “To reduce the pay of board member Tab Wilkerson to the maximum extent allowable by law for failure to attend meetings of the board.” (Requested by and presented by Ms. Karen Diel) ***On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel “To reduce the pay of board member Tab Wilkerson to the maximum extent allowable by law for failure to attend meetings of the board.” seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon.***

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel – No

Louis Melton – Yes

Tab Wilkerson – Absent

Rick Hixon – No

Debbie Wilson – No
Veronica Tappin - Yes
Adrin Williams – Yes

The motion failed.

The next item on the agenda was the Personnel Report (See Attachment).

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment:

1. Mr. Ricky Allen Anderson would like to discuss “Superintendent Duties”. (Limit 3-5 minutes) *This was a statement from Mr. Anderson.*
2. Ms. Terrika Everett would like to discuss “Wrongful termination. (Limit 3-5 minutes) *Ms. Terrika Everett wasn’t present.*

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, President

Mrs. Debbie Wilson, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent