

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on May 3, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at Student Services Center, with the following members present, Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Tab Wilkerson, Rick Hixon, President- Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin, and Adrin Williams Vice-President. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

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:

- Emma Brooks- Retired Coach/Teacher
- Amelia Winston-Retired Teacher

Mrs. Debbie Wilson led the pledge of allegiance.

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

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

The next item on the agenda was recognitions:

JAG Presentations- Seniors Raley Brown, Taisha DeJohnette, Aliya Winfield, and State Officer Mikiya Burks. (Presented by Ms. Katie Henderson)

Morehouse Parish Schools Semi-finalist teacher- of -the -year – Beekman Charter School Alexa Robinson. (Presented by Principal Emily Myrick and Ms. Katie Henderson)

Employee of the Month – Robin Grantham (Presented by Dr. Dana Boockoff and Mrs. Teresa Merritt and Ms. Robin Grantham received a gift card from Thomas and Farr)

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements - ***Mr. Davenport presented a last minute bus request for board approval. The request was for Bastrop High Choir to attend National Prayer Day services at St. John Baptist Church.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on April 7, 2022. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting on April 7, 2022, 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. Veronica Tappin, 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 with one addition, as described above by Mr. Davenport, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take necessary actions to allow industrial tax additions/exemptions to make improvements to DRAX Wood Pellet Plant. (Presented by Ms. Kay King). ***Ms. Kay King gave updated information regarding additions/exemptions for DRAX Wood Pellet Plant.***

On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve industrial tax additions/exemptions to make improvements to DRAX Wood Pellet Plant, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a resolution approving the redistricting plan for the Morehouse Parish School Board based on the 2020 census. (Presented by Mr. Doug Mitchell) ***Public comment was made from Mr. Charles Bradford asking the board to postpone approving the plans, and have a Community meeting before presenting the plan to the state. There was discussion among board members and on motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve Redistricting plan #4 for Morehouse Parish School Board based on the 2020 census, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel, there was a roll call vote.***

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel – Yes

Louis Melton – No

Tab Wilkerson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Yes

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 April 26, 2022. (Presented by Mr. Rick Hixon)

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Rick Hixon-Chairperson called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Karen Diel, Debbie Wilson, Adrin Williams and Louis Melton. Also present were David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.

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

- 1. Ms. Shatterria King presented the report regarding the Sales Tax Funds update for March 2022. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve Sales Tax Funds report for March 2022, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, and passed unanimously.***
- 2. Ms. Shatterria King presented the report regarding the General Fund update for March 2022. On a motion by Ms. Adrin Williams to approve Sales Tax Funds report for March 2022, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, and passed unanimously.***
- 3. Ms. Shatterria King presented the report regarding the School Lunch Fund update for March 2022. On a motion by Ms. Adrin Williams to approve School Lunch Fund report for March 2022, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.***

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, and passed unanimously.

4. *The next item on the agenda was to present the Administrative Index Report. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion by Mr. Rick Hixon that this be presented at the May Finance and Advisory Committee Meeting, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.*

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, and passed unanimously

5. **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take necessary action regarding Virtual Learning, will we offer Virtual Learning for the 2022-2023 school year. Presented by Mrs. Debbie Wilson & Mr. David Gray) *On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to announce that Virtual Learning will not be offered for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed and the motion carried unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2022 Summer Work Schedule. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) *On a motion of Mr. Tab Wilkerson to adopt a proposal for the 2022 Summer Work Schedule, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed and the motion carried unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2022-2023 School Calendar effective July 1, 2022. (Presented by Mr. David Gray). *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt a proposal for the 2022-2023 School Calendar effective July 1, 2022, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed and the motion carried unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2022-2023 Morehouse Parish School Board/Committee Meeting Schedule. (Presented by Mrs. Debbie Wilson) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt a proposal for the 2022-2023 Morehouse Parish School Board/Committee Meeting Schedule, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.*

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 Track Team. (Requested by Ms. Margaret Cotton, presented by Mr. David Gray) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the use of a school bus for the City of Bastrop Track Team, conditioned upon it providing a certificate of insurance, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.*

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

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the following Workers' Compensation and Sick Leave Policy Amendment as a "First Reading" Section F-30. Please see the attachment. (Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt.) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the Workers' Compensation and Sick Leave Policy Amendment as a "First Reading" Section F-30, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take necessary action to replace Bastrop High School football field to turf. (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams) *There was public comment by Mr. Charles Bradford discussing other needed improvements, and Mr. Ross Downs discussing the importance of having turf at Bastrop High School, and there was further discussion from Board members. On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to replace Bastrop High School football field to turf, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. There was a roll call vote.*

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel – Abstain

Louis Melton – Yes

Tab Wilkerson – Yes

Rick Hixon – Abstain

Debbie Wilson – No

Veronica Loche Tappin – Yes

Adrin Williams – Yes

The motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the following Policy Amendment as a “**First Reading**”:

Add to section I of policy C-6.13g an additional paragraph ‘M.’ to read as follows:

“M. Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein, any 12 month employee who has accumulated more than 15 vacation days in the 2020-2021 and/or the 2021-2022 school year may be paid for those unused vacation days at the employee’s current rate of pay from available ESSER Funds in July 2022.” (Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston and Mr. David Gray)

On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the following Policy Amendment as a “First Reading”:

Add to section I of policy C-6.13g an additional paragraph ‘M.’ to read as follows:

“M. Notwithstanding any other provision contained herein, any 12 month employee who has accumulated more than 15 vacation days in the 2020-2021 and/or the 2021-2022 school year may be paid for those unused vacation days at the employee’s current rate of pay from available ESSER Funds in July 2022.” (Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston and Mr. David Gray)

Seconded by Mr. Tab Wilkerson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the following **H-2.2 School Choice Policy amendment** as a “**Second Reading**”:

The School District shall define “capacity” for each school, and determine a transfer request period which shall begin no later than March 1st and end no earlier than March 28th, annually. Prior to the transfer request period, the School District shall notify parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in schools that received a D or F school performance letter grade of the following:

- 1. The provisions of the Louisiana Public School Choice policy;*
- 2. Schools under the jurisdiction of the School District that received an A, B, or C school performance letter grade, if any;*

3. *The process for submitting student transfer requests; and,*
4. *The page on the Louisiana Department of Education's website that contains school performance data.* (Presented by Ms. Theresa Yabut)

On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt the H-2.2 School Choice Policy amendment as a "Second Reading":

The School District shall define "capacity" for each school, and determine a transfer request period which shall begin no later than March 1st and end no earlier than March 28th, annually. Prior to the transfer request period, the School District shall notify parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in schools that received a D or F school performance letter grade of the following:

1. *The provisions of the Louisiana Public School Choice policy;*
2. *Schools under the jurisdiction of the School District that received an A, B, or C school performance letter grade, if any;*
3. *The process for submitting student transfer requests; and,*
4. *The page on the Louisiana Department of Education's website that contains school performance data.*

Seconded by Mr. Tab Wilkerson, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.

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

The next item on the agenda was **Public Comment:**

- ***Avus Williams (Louisiana Federation of Teachers) Would like to present a resolution in support of a state pay raise for teachers and school employees (support staff) (Limit 3-5 minutes to speak) On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to amend the agenda to adopt the resolution to support a pay raise for teachers and school employees (support staff), seconded by Ms. Karen Diel, the motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Avus Williams and Mr. Devall read the resolution. On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the resolution to support a pay raise for teachers and school employees (support staff), seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed and the motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution was given to Morehouse Parish School Board.***

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, President

Mrs. Debbie Wilson, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent