

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in a Regular Session on February 2, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Student Services Center, with the following members present **Karen Diel, Tab Wilkerson, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Vice - President, Veronica Loche-Tappin, President, and Adrin Williams.**

Absent- Louis Melton

Also, present **David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.**

Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin, **President** called the meeting to order.

Rick Hixon gave the invocation.

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

- Patricia Domino - Retired Teacher
- Martha Hall - Retired Teacher
- Loretta Carter – Retired Food Technician

Ms. Debbie Wilson led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call to Establish a Quorum:

- **Karen Diel, Tab Wilkerson, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin, and Adrin Williams - Present**
- **Absent – Louis Melton**

The next item on the agenda was to approve the agenda. **On a motion of Adrin Williams moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was Recognitions – Students of the year.

Morehouse Parish Schools Elementary Students of the year.

- Delta Elementary – Malaya Carter
- Morehouse Magnet Elementary – Layla Benton 5th grade, and Garrison Barton 8th grade
- Morehouse Elementary – Mya Smith
- Beekman Charter – Riley Mardis , Whitley Davis 5th grade, Emery Odom 8th grade
- Bastrop High – Justice Rainwater 8th grade, and Denim Hill 12th grade
- **Morehouse Parish Schools Overall Students of the Year –**
 - Layla Benton, Elementary
 - Emery Odom, Junior High
 - Denim Hill, High School

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements - None currently

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on January 7, 2021. **On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the Minutes for Regular School Board Meeting held on January 7, 2021, seconded by Mr. Tab Wilkerson. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of monthly Travel Requests - **On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.**

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

The next item on the agenda was to consider and take necessary action regarding rescheduling the Morehouse Parish School Board FPOPD Committee Meeting set for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 to Thursday, April 8, 2021. Spring Break is March 22-26. (Requested by Mr. David Gray.) **On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve and consider and take necessary action regarding rescheduling the Morehouse Parish School Board FPOPD Committee Meeting set for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 to Thursday, April 8, 2021. Spring Break is March 22-26, seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to Recognize Grambling Alumni and Paragon Civic Social Club for their generous donations of \$2,000.00 each in support of all staff with Morehouse Parish Elementary Schools. (Presented by Mr. David Gray.) **(This was presentation only) Morehouse Magnet-Dr. Stacey Pullen gave thanks and stated they fed staff pizza and chicken biscuits from Chick-fa-la. They will be doing much more for their staff. Morehouse Elementary – Mrs. Wendy Coleman gave thanks and stated they fed staff Subway with all the trimmings, and gave out Sonic gift cards. They will be increasing the prizes for their star employee of the month. Delta Elementary – Mrs. Karmen Murry stated they fed employees and they are working on pulling names monthly for all staff to receive gifts.**

The next item on the agenda was to receive to receive the 2020 School Report for Beekman Charter School. (Presented by Ms. Emily Myrick). **On a motion to accept the 2020 School Report for Beekman Charter School, by Ms. Adrin Williams, seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to receive the report from the FPOPD Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams)

The FPOPD Committee met on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. **Adrin Williams-Chairperson** called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: **Louis Melton, Debbie Wilson, and Veronica Loche-Tappin.** Also present were **David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.**

Absent: **Rick Hixon**

The following agenda items were presented to the FPOPD Committee:

1. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the Sales Tax Funds update for December 2020. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve Sales Tax Funds report for December 2020, seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.

Madam President, I so move. Seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the General Fund for December 2020. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve General Fund report for December 2020, seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.

Madam President, I so move. Seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the School Lunch Fund for December 2020. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for December 2020, seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.

Madam President, I so move. Seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Ms. Ersula Downs presented an update on the MFP adjustment on the October 1 student count. (Presented by Ersula Downs, requested by Mr. David Gray) **(This was discussion only.)**
5. Ralph Davenport presented an update on the 2019-2020 student count audit. (Presented by Ralph Davenport, requested by Mr. David Gray) **(This was discussion only.)**

6. MEETING ADJOURNED.

The next item on the agenda was to Grant permission for the Superintendent to advertise for sale 108 acres near the Old Bonita Road for \$164,000.00 which is 80% of the appraised value of \$205,000.00 based upon the appraisal of October 15, 2020. (Present by Ersula Downs) **On a motion to grant** permission for the Superintendent to advertise for sale 108 acres near the Old Bonita Road for \$164,000.00 which is 80% of the appraised value of \$205,000.00 based upon the appraisal of October 15, 2020, **by Mr. Rick Hixon, seconded by Mrs. Karen Diel. The motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider the following Public School Choice Policy H-2.2 for a "Second Reading"

- A parent or legal guardian of any student may enroll his child in the public school of his

choice, without regard to residence, school system geographic boundaries, or attendance zones, provided both of the following apply:

- A. The public school in which the student was most recently enrolled, or would otherwise attend, received a performance letter grade of "D" or "F" for the most recent school year, pursuant to the state of Louisiana's school and district accountability system and
- B. The school in which the student seeks to enroll received a school performance grade of "A," "B" or "C" for the most recent school year, pursuant to the state of Louisiana's school and district accountability system and the school has sufficient capacity at the grade level to accept the student.

On a motion by Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt a policy and post the following Public School Choice Policy H-2.2 for a "Second Reading"

- A parent or legal guardian of any student may enroll his child in the public school of his choice, without regard to residence, school system geographic boundaries, or attendance zones, provided both of the following apply:
 - A. The public school in which the student was most recently enrolled, or would otherwise attend, received a performance letter grade of "D" or "F" for the most recent school year, pursuant to the state of Louisiana's school and district accountability system and
 - B. The school in which the student seeks to enroll received a school performance grade of "A," "B" or "C" for the most recent school year, pursuant to the state of Louisiana's school and district accountability system and the school has sufficient capacity at the grade level to accept the student.

On the school website, seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take appropriate action to deal with the surge in Covid 19 and the two new strains of the virus (B.1.1.7 and L452R) that has invaded the United States; it is imperative that all employees and students follow the CDC mandates for wearing face masks. Masks should be worn above the nose and below the chin for maximum protection. Signed exemptions from physicians must be on file, but other face protection must be used. (Requested by Veronica Tappin, Presented by Veronica Tappin). **Central Office should send out a memo to each school, stating Morehouse Parish School Board is reinforcing CDC guidelines of wearing face mask. This pertains to all staff and students.**

To discuss and consider having a 5th and 6th grade basketball program at Delta Elementary and Morehouse Elementary during the 2020-2021 school year. (Requested By Mr. Louis Melton, Presented by Mr. Louis Melton.) **In Mr. Louis Melton's absence this was discussed, Further information will be discussed in March monthly board meeting. On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to table this item and ask staff bring back information for 2021-2022 school year, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon and unanimously passed.**

To discuss and require teachers to video their lessons, so parents can review what is required of their children. (Requested By Mr. Louis Melton, Presented by Mr. Louis Melton.) **In Mr. Louis Melton's**

absence this was discussion only, and Mr. Gray will remind administrators at the administrators' meeting on February 4, 2021.

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment: Shane Clement and Rose Fairclot request board approval to enroll their daughter in Morehouse Parish School System **(No action taken because they weren't present)**

The next item on the agenda was Personnel Report. **The Personnel Report was attached to the agenda.**

MEETING ADJOURNED BY Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin

Veronica Loche-Tappin, President

David Gray, Superintendent