The Morehouse Parish School Board met in a Regular Session on April 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Student Services Center, with the following members present **Louis Melton, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Vice – President, Veronica Loche-Tappin, President, and Adrin Williams.**

Absent- Karen Diel and Tab Wilkerson

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

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

Mr. Louis Melton gave the invocation.

Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin led the pledge of allegiance.

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

- Margaret Langston –Retired Cafeteria Technician

Roll call to Establish a Quorum:

- **Louis Melton, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Vice –President, Veronica Loche-Tappin, President, and Adrin Williams. - Present**

Absent – Karen Diel and Tab Wilkerson

The next item on the agenda was to approve the agenda**. On a motion of Debbie Wilson moved to approve the agenda with changing item 31 to item 13, and item 25 to item 14, seconded by Louis Melton.**

Roll Call Vote:

- **Louis Melton- Yes**
- **Rick Hixon – Yes**
- **Debbie Wilson – Yes**
- **Veronica Loche-Tappin – Yes**
- **Adrin Williams - Yes**

On a motion of Louis Melton moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Recognitions - Ms. Emily Fulmer, The Golden Apple Award for the week. (DES). Principal Karmen Murry presented the certificate for Ms. Emily Fulmer and student Alasia Williams, read her recommendation for Ms. Emily Fulmer.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements – We have no cases through contact tracing in our school setting. Everyone is doing an outstanding job following CDC guidelines. Morehouse Elementary and Morehouse Magnet has no positive cases or any close contact cases. Delta Elementary has 4 close contact and in quarantine. Bastrop High has 2 positive and 3 close contact students. No employees are in close contact.

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on March 2, 2021. **On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Minutes for Regular School Board**

Meeting held on March 2, 2021, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.

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

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 adopt the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar effective March 15, 2021. (Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) In Mr. Jesse Winstons' absence Mr. David Gray presented the calendar. **On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve and adopt the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar effective March 15, 2021, seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to adopt a proposal for the 2021-2022 School Calendar. (Presented by Mr. David Gray). **On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve and adopt the proposed 2021-2022 School Calendar, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take the necessary action needed NOT to move the Pre-K classes from Morehouse Magnet School to Morehouse Elementary. (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams– Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams.) **On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to not move the Pre-K classes from Morehouse Magnet School to Morehouse Elementary, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously**.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take the necessary action to provide a $1500.00 bonus for all employees of the Morehouse Parish School System effective May 1, 2021. (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton – Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt and approve a one-time stipend is for Morehouse Parish School Board employees who are classified as the following and under the following conditions:***

Full-time, part-time, or long term substitute. The payment is a one – time stipend of $1500.00 payable from ESSER II funding for persons who performed in-person work only. Payment is provisional dependent on approval from the Louisiana Department of Education of ESSER II budget. A pro-rated payment will be made for employees whose employment began after July 1, 2020 for 12 month employees, July 27, 2020 for 10 and 11 month employees, August 5, 2020 for 9 month employees and for long-term substitutes based on their 21st day of employment.

Seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Sales Tax Fund report for February 2021 (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) **On a motion to approve the Sales Tax Fund report for February 2021 by Mr. Rick Hixon, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to receive the General Fund report for February 2021 (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) **On a motion to approve the General Fund report for February 2021 by Mr. Rick Hixon, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to receive the School Lunch Fund report for February 2021 (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) **On a motion to approve the School Lunch Fund report for February 2021 by Mr. Rick Hixon, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to provide an update on the 2020-2021 MFP Student count. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) **This was discussion only.**

The next item on the agenda was **t**o provide an Economic Development update. (Requested by Mr. Rick Hixon and presented by Mrs. Kay King**) Mr. Hixon requested this be placed on the next regular scheduled board meeting on May 2021.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider and take necessary action regarding rescheduling the Morehouse Parish School Board regular scheduled monthly board meeting set for Tuesday, May 4, 2021 to Thursday, May 6, 2021. There is a LSBA Capital Conference on May 4th in Baton Rouge. (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) **On a motion to approve rescheduling the Morehouse Parish School Board regular scheduled monthly board meeting set for Tuesday, May 4, 2021 to Thursday, May 6, 2021 by Mr. Louis Melton, seconded b**y **Ms. Adrin Williams, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to announce a notice regarding plans to consider adopting a resolution for Morehouse Parish ordering and calling and election to be held. (Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Morehouse Student Services Center, 1607 Martin Luther King South, Bastrop, Louisiana, the Parish School Board of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling elections to be held in (i) the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of sales and use taxes therein, (ii) School District Number A (Parish wide) of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and to authorize the renewal of ad valorem taxes therein and (iii) East Morehouse School District of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax therein.) (Presented by Mr. David Gray) This announcement was read by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. The announcement was read with the date change **from Tuesday, May 4, 2021 to Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 5:30 pm.**

*(Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on **Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Morehouse Student Services Center, 1607 Martin Luther King South, Bastrop, Louisiana,** the Parish School Board of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling elections to be held in (i) the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of sales and use taxes therein, (ii) School District Number A (Parish wide) of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and to authorize the renewal of ad valorem taxes therein and (iii) East Morehouse School District of the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax therein.) (Presented by Mr. David Gray**) This announcement was read by Mrs. Veronica Tappin.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the following Policy as a **"Second Reading": F-9.18-1 2020-2021 EVALUATION**

1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for the 2020-2021 school year, the board shall examine the results from student assessments and school-level test data but shall not use such assessments and data for purposes of evaluating teacher performance or making placement decisions for fourth and eighth grade students.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for the 2020-2021 school year, value-added data shall not be used to evaluate teacher performance or effectiveness.

On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt the following Policy as a "Second Reading": F-9.18-1 2020-2021 EVALUATION

1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for the 2020-2021 school year, the board shall examine the results from student assessments and school-level test data but shall not use such assessments and data for purposes of evaluating teacher performance or making placement decisions for fourth and eighth grade students.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for the 2020-2021 school year, value-added data shall not be used to evaluate teacher performance or effectiveness.

Seconded by **Mr. Rick Hixon, the motion carried unanimously.**
The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the following **F-10.4 Policy amendment** as a **"Second Reading**":

- 4. When an employee is absent six or more consecutive days because of personal illness, he/she shall present a certificate from a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner certifying such illness.

On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt the following F-10.4 Policy amendment as a **"Second Reading**":

- 4. When an employee is absent six or more consecutive days because of personal illness, he/she shall present a certificate from a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner certifying such illness.

Seconded by **Mr. Rick Hixon, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bid on Pine Grove School with no minimum bid of the appraised value of $62,000 and to grant the Superintendent the authority to execute all necessary documents. (Requested by Mr. David Gray, presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) Last advertised in July of 2020 with no bids. **On a motion of Ms. Debbie Wilson was to advertise for a minimum bid of $40,000 on Pine Grove School of the appraised value of $62,000 and to grant the Superintendent the authority to execute all necessary documents, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. The motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bid on property located at 700 Boatner St, Bastrop, LA with no minimum bid of the appraisal value of $27,000.00 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 Ms. Adrin Williams was to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for a minimum bid of $10,000 on property located at 700 Boatner St, Bastrop, LA with the appraised value of $27,000.00 and to grant the Superintendent the authority to execute all necessary documents, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. The motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt an update to Morehouse Parish School Board School Bookkeeper job description. **Report To** section Business Manager will be added affective April 8, 2021. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) **On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt an update to Morehouse Parish School Board School Bookkeeper job description, "Report To section Business Manager will be added affective April 8, 2021," seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the following additions to policies **F-9.23 and F-9.24** as a "**First Reading**":

a. **F-9.23 Resignation** "Unless denied in writing by the Superintendent, the resignation shall be effective once received by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
b. **F-9.24 Retirement "(4)** An employees retirement shall become effective at the end of the Fiscal year or as may be approved by the Superintendent. Once received by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, the decision to retire will become effective and may not be rescinded. When the retirement becomes effective, the employee shall no longer be considered to be in active service of the Morehouse Parish School Board. No individual shall be terminated or forced to retire because of age.

On a motion of Ms. Debbie Wilson to receive and adopt the following additions to policies **F-9.23 and F-9.24 as a** "**First Reading**":

a. **F-9.23 Resignation** "Unless denied in writing by the Superintendent, the resignation shall be effective once received by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
b. **F-9.24 Retirement "(4)** An employees retirement shall become effective at the end of the Fiscal year or as may be approved by the Superintendent. Once received by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, the decision to retire will become effective and may not be rescinded. When the retirement becomes effective, the employee shall no longer be considered to be in active service of the Morehouse Parish School Board. No individual shall be terminated or forced to retire because of age.

Seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to provide a detailed account of funds received through the CARES ACT, expenditures, balances, and the projected funds to be received through CARES ACT –2021. (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton – Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) **This was discussion only.**

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take the appropriate action to provide a summer enrichment program (Fine Arts Enrichment - (FAEC) in drama, music, and art, culminating with a performance showcasing the talents of students involved. (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin – Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) **This was discussion only.**

The next item on the agenda was to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bid at a minimum of $90,000.00 for TBD Wallace Road located at :

- West Half of Northeast Quarter (W ½ of NE ¼) and that part of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) lying North and West of the centerline of Louisiana Highway No. 140, Section 33, Township 22 North, Range 6 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana containing Approximately 108 acres more or less.

(Requested by Mr. David Gray and presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bid at a minimum of $90,000.00 for TBD Wallace Road located at :

- West Half of Northeast Quarter (W ½ of NE ¼) and that part of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) lying North and West of the centerline of Louisiana Highway No. 140, Section 33, Township 22 North, Range 6 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana containing Approximately 108 acres more or less.

Seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bid for lease for hunting purposes at:

- Section 16, Township 21 North, Range 8 East (Current lease expires June 30,2021)
- Section 16, Township 23, North, Range 6 East (Current lease expires June 30,2021)

(Requested by Mr. David Gray and presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon of was to authorize the Superintendent to advertise for bid for lease for hunting purposes at:

- Section 16, Township 21 North, Range 8 East (Current lease expires June 30,2021)
- Section 16, Township 23, North, Range 6 East (Current lease expires June 30,2021)

Seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to authorize the carryover of accrued unused vacation days from SY 2020- 2021 to SY 2021 -2022 for twelve month employees whose vacation days were allowed to be carried over from the previous school year as a result of the need to meet state and federal requirements/ guidelines for safe school reopening. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs**) On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton was to authorize the carryover of accrued unused vacation days from SY 2020- 2021 to SY 2021 -2022 for twelve month employees whose vacation days were allowed to be carried over from the previous school year as a result of the need to meet state and federal requirements/ guidelines for safe school reopening, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams, the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take the appropriate action needed to provide a summer work program for students to be employed at Bastrop High School and Delta Elementary.(Requested by Mr. Louis Melton- Presented by Mr. Louis Melton). **On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to table this item until May 6, 2021 awaiting history from previous summer work programs, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams the motion carried unanimously.**

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the following **F-9.10** Policy amendment (Compensation Guidelines IV. Substitute Teachers) as a "**First Reading**." Substitute teachers Non-Degree Pay Classification to change to **High School or equivalent (i.e. GED) and Associate Degree** to receive a daily rate of **$60**.

CURRENT POLICY	
	Daily Rate
Non Degree	$55

PROPOSED NEW POLICY	
	Daily Rate
High School or Equivalent (i.e. GED) and Associate	$60

(Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt)

On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to receive and adopt the following **F-9.10** Policy amendment (Compensation Guidelines IV. Substitute Teachers) as a "**First Reading**." Substitute teachers Non-Degree Pay Classification to change to **High School or equivalent (i.e. GED) and Associate Degree** to receive a daily rate of **$60**.

CURRENT POLICY	
	Daily Rate
Non Degree	$55

PROPOSED NEW POLICY	
	Daily Rate
High School or Equivalent (i.e. GED) and Associate	$60

Seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson, the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to present a report on the first meeting of the Morehouse School District Coalition. (Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin). **This was discussion only.**

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt a pay scale for the **Child Nutrition Supervisor Position with an Associate's Degree, or equivalent educational experience**. (Please refer to the attached pay scale) Individuals must meet the minimum education standards as outlined in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs (Revised 2020).

(Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt)

On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to receive and adopt a pay scale for the **Child Nutrition Supervisor Position with an Associate's Degree, or equivalent educational experience**. (Please refer to the attached pay scale) Individuals must meet the minimum education standards as outlined in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs (Revised 2020).

Seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, the motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to update the board on the erection of Delta Community College. (Presented by Mr. Rick Hixon – Mrs. Veronica Tappin) **More updates will be given at May 6, 2021 monthly board meeting.**

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment: This was spoken on revised agenda item #13 by Mrs. Linda Thompson and Ms. Mims.

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