

The Morehouse Parish School Board Public Hearing was held on September 8, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Rick Hixon, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams Vice-President. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

Absent- Tab Wilkerson and President- Debbie Wilson

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the adoption of the Morehouse Parish School Board 2021-2022 Revised School Year Consolidated Budget (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***This was presentation and discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the adoption of the Morehouse Parish School Board 2022-2023 School Year Consolidated Budget (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***This was presentation and discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was to close public hearing.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on September 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Rick Hixon, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams Vice-President. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

Absent- Tab Wilkerson and President- Debbie Wilson

Vice-President Adrin Williams called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mr. Louis Melton.

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

- Billy Rabon- Retired Principal
- Retired Teacher- Marilyn Vining Hatch

Ms. Adrin Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent- Tab Wilkerson and President- Debbie Wilson

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

The next item on the agenda was recognitions: Employee of the month, Bus Operator Luann Mattson.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements – ***Lyn Kenley with Volkert gave updates on projects for Morehouse Parish School District.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on August 2, 2022. ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to add to the August 2, 2022 minutes to reflect Mrs. Veronica Loche Tappin as present for the meeting, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. The motion passed unanimously. On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the amended minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting held on August 2, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, 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 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 Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the monthly Bus Request, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Morehouse Parish School Board 2021-2022 Revised School Year Consolidated Budget (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs and Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to approve the Morehouse Parish School Board 2021-2022 Revised School Year Consolidated Budget, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Morehouse Parish School Board 2022-2023 School Year Consolidated Budget and Budget Resolution (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs and Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the Morehouse Parish School Board 2022-2023***

School Year Consolidated Budget and Budget Resolution, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to "To receive and approve a recommendation regarding an amendment to ESSER projects at Bastrop High School." (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve a recommendation regarding an amendment to ESSER projects at Bastrop High School, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed. On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Instructional Amendment, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was to present the Liability Insurance renewal. (Presented by Mr. Robert Cowan with Brown & Brown Insurance) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the Liability Insurance renewal (with med pay being removed), seconded by Ms. Karen Diel, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Report from the Finance and Advisory Committee Meeting, held Tuesday, August 23, 2022 (Presented by Mr. Rick Hixon)

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 5:30 pm. **Rick Hixon-Chairperson** called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: **Louis Melton, Debbie Wilson, Adrin Williams.** Also present were **Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin, David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.**

Absent – Karen Diel

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 July 2022. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve Sales Tax Funds report for July 2022, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton and passed unanimously.
2. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the General Fund for July 2022. On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve General Fund report for July 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.
3. Ms. Ersula Downs presented the report regarding the School Lunch Fund for July 2022. On a motion by Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the School Lunch Fund report for July 2022, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton and passed unanimously.
4. The next item on the agenda was to approve a Personnel and Policy Committee recommendation. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve a Personnel and Policy Committee recommendation, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton and passed unanimously.

5. The next item on the agenda was to give an annual report on East Morehouse Tax fund. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) This was report only.
6. The next item on the agenda was to consider accepting a proposal to contract with Forethought Consulting, Inc. for the review, revision and maintenance of school policy manual. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs and Mrs. Teresa Merritt) On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to consider accepting a proposal to contract with Forethought Consulting, Inc. for the review, revision and maintenance of school policy manual, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed, the motion carried unanimously.
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton and passed unanimously.

7. 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) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to table this item until further notice, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider authorizing placing the name of Brad Bradshaw in bold letters in the turf on both sides of the turf football field being installed at Bastrop High School and to consider authorizing the payment for it from private funds - public funds cannot be used for that purpose. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to authorize placing the name of Brad Bradshaw in bold letters in the turf on both sides of the turf football field being installed at Bastrop High School and authorizing the payment for it from private funds (donor) paid directly to the contractor, as long as the LHSAA & Ethics Board has no objections, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss the process and procedures for completing the Superintendents evaluation.” (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt a revision for Overtime for School Bus Operators in section IIIB of policy F-9.12b as a “**First Reading**”. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the revision for Overtime for School Bus Operators in section IIIB of policy F-9.12b as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tapping, 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 “**First 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 Mr. Louis Melton to approve and adopt the amendment to Policy E-1.7 section E on page 12.E as a “First 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 “**First Reading**”. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to***

adopt the revision for Purchasing & Bids and Quotations Policy D-11 as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the Pupil Progression Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year. (Presented by Ms. Katie Henderson.) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Pupil Progression Plan for the 2022-2023 School Year, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda is to review and adopt the Morehouse Parish School District 2022-2023 Ready To Achieve School Reopening Plan. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt the Morehouse Parish School District 2022-2023 Ready To Achieve School Reopening Plan with correction of Ms. Adrin Wilson is District 7, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to review and adopt the job description, performance responsibilities and salary schedule for the Special Education Paraprofessional – Educational Sign Language Interpreter. (Presented by Dr. Dana Boockoff and Mrs. Teresa Merritt) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the job description, performance responsibilities and salary schedule for the Special Education Paraprofessional – Educational Sign Language Interpreter, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed and the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and receive a report showing the school performance score data between 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 so that we can make and take the necessary correction action to improve the school performance scores.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton, Presented by Mr. Gray and Staff) ***This was presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to adjust and improve the transportation awarding of bus routes and communication between bus drivers, transportation coordinator, director/supervisor, and secretary of transportation to ensure the safety of each student and display the professional, respectful, and open-minded practices concerning students, parents, employees, and everyone involved.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action so that the two elementary schools open-day practices for the same grade levels are the same, each grade level attend school the same day.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton and presented by Mr. David Gray.) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action so that Morehouse East District funds are not being supplanting in the place of the General fund or Sales tax fund or Title 1/Federal Funds.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and receive a 2022-2023 update report on what plan of action or procedure is in the place regarding safety at the schools in the event of gun or other acts of terrorisms and threats.”(Requested By Mr. Louis Melton, presented by Mr. David Gray) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive and update on the mentors school performance scores concerning 2021-2022 school year so that the school board members can compare and contrast the mentor teachers scores to non-mentor teachers in order to take the necessary action in the future whether to continue to include or exclude the mentors.” (Requested by Mr. Louis E. Melton, Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt) ***Mr. Melton stated that he will table until a later date and no action taken.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and consider to take the necessary action to pay a stipend for coaches for 4th through 6th grades for basketball and any other sport, including the salary for coaches and assist. coaches”. (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***Mr. Melton will wait and follow up with the principals of Morehouse Elementary and Delta Elementary and no action taken.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and consider to take the necessary action to eliminate the fee to wear regular clothes on Friday and any other day.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and reinstate the additional 5 – covid sick days and 10 – covid sick days for teachers and staff.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive an update regarding the number of hall monitors and the funding sources for each school.”(Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive an update from Transportation on bus routes, pickups and drivers.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive an update on where we are regarding the Fire Marshall violations.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To again address the concerns of members of the public and school employees concerning the manner in which they are treated by certain central office personnel.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only. The next item on the agenda was the Personnel Report (See Attachment)***

The next item on the agenda was “In an effort to make the Morehouse Parish School System's policy manual transparent to the citizens of the parish, a group comprised of an administrator, an elementary and a high school teacher, other school personnel (cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, etc), two or more parents, and two or more students will be formed to ensure that the manual addresses the needs of the employees and students of Morehouse Parish.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only.***

Public Comment: Mr. Ricky Allen Anderson would like to discuss “The naming and re-naming schools “Mascot”. **(Limit 3-5 minutes) (This was discussion only)**

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Adrin Williams, Vice-President

Mrs. Debbie Wilson, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent