

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on July 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel - President, Louis Melton – Vice President, Robert Johnson, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

President Karen Diel called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mrs. Debbie Wilson.

The next item was a moment of silence for –

- Vera Henry – Retired Teacher

Ms. Karen Diel led the pledge of allegiance.

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

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the agenda. ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to amend the agenda to add item 7 To Grant approval for a change order for all bathrooms at all schools being renovated for outdated plumbing, estimated at \$100,000. (Must be added to agenda by unanimous vote) (Presented by Mr. Lyn Kenley), seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was recognitions: LDOE Selected Artwork for the U.S. Department of Education’s 2023 Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC Summer Symposium. ***MaKayla Harris artwork has been selected out of 48 entries from around the state to be displayed. MaKayla is a freshman at Bastrop High School under the guidance of her teacher, Mr. William Scarborough. Also, MaKayla received a plaque and a \$100 gift card.***

The next item on the agenda was to Grant approval for a change order for all bathrooms at all schools being renovated for outdated plumbing, estimated at \$100,000. (Presented by Mr. Lyn Kenley) On a motion of Mr. Hixon to Grant approval for a change order for all bathrooms at all schools being renovated for outdated plumbing, estimated at \$100,000, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent’s Announcements – ***Lyn Kenley gave updates on ESSER Projects with restroom renovations, modular classrooms, artificial turf for the football field and the track. Mr. Gray gave mentioned that Central Office in April formed a District Leadership Team. They are working with the state department to support in any way we can, and to not micro-manage principals. This team will be in classrooms helping teachers.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on June 6, 2023. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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. Debbie Wilson to approve the monthly bus request, seconded by Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee Meeting held on June 27, 2023. (Presented by Mr. Rick Hixon)

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Rick Hixon- Chairperson called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Karen Diel, Louis Melton, and Robert Johnson. Also present were Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin, Mrs. Debbie Wilson, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.

Absent- Ms. Adrin Williams

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

1. To receive the Sales Tax Funds report for May 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for May 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.
2. To receive the General Fund report for May 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the General Fund report for May 2023, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.
3. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for May 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for May 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.
4. To receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for May 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for May 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***
Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

5. To discuss creating a position for a Medicaid Coordinator. (Presented by Dr. Dana Boockoff) *On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to recommend to the full board to authorize staff to advertise for the Medicaid Coordinator position and approve the job description, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

6. To add an addendum to the original statement of work with Powerschool Group, LLC. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to add an addendum to the original statement of work with Powerschool Group, LLC. at \$225.00 per hour for 76 payments, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. All members voted for the motion except Mrs. Veronica Tappin, who abstained, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next item on the agenda was to receive to receive and consider for approval a proposal from Risk Services of Louisiana Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year. (Presented by Ms. Lauren Young) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to table this item until the next meeting, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive and consider for approval a report regarding property insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 School Year from Brown and Brown Insurance. (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs, presented by Mr. Rob Cowan) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve a report regarding property insurance coverage for the 2023-2024 School Year from Brown and Brown Insurance, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss the huge increase in insurance costs incurred by some employees since we’ve changed to EBI.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *This was presentation and discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was to appoint Ms. Ersula Downs and Ms. Shatterria King, for the 2023-2024 Morehouse Sales Tax Commission Board for Morehouse Parish School Board (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to appoint Ms. Ersula Downs and Ms. Shatterria King, for the 2023-2024 Morehouse Sales Tax Commission Board for Morehouse Parish School Board, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to approve audit engagement for the 2022-2023 School Year with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, LLC. (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs, presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to table this item until the next monthly meeting, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to approve agreed upon Procedures Audit Engagement for 2022-2023 fiscal year with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, LLC. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mrs.*

Veronica Tappin to table this item until the next monthly meeting, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the 2023-2024 Salary Schedules. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt the 2023-2024 Salary Schedules, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (June 2023) (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *Mr. Davenport mentioned there are students in summer school, however there are no discipline reports during June and July.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and consider that the in-school suspension at Delta Elementary, Morehouse Elementary and Bastrop High School stays in place/put in place.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to create an Assistant Superintendent’s position.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to create an Assistant Superintendent’s position, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams.*

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel- No

Louis Melton- Yes

Robert Johnson- Absent (Left earlier)

Rick Hixon- No

Debbie Wilson- No

Veronica Tappin- Yes

Adrin Williams- Yes

The motion did not pass because of the tie.

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss the condition of our bus fleet and determine the number needed to provide adequate transportation for our students for the next school year.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *Mr. Melton asked that an item to be placed on August board meeting agenda, to grant permission to advertise for bids for the sale of certain unused buses.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss the hierarchy of administrators, supervisors, and administrators and what is the screening committee makeup of those who decide how these position are filled? (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To show and differentiate between swap time and comp time and what circumstances determine who and how it is used by administrative personnel. Is there written documentation of times administrators leave their respective schools and when they return?” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *This was discussion only. Twelve month employees accrue swap time and nonexempt employees accumulate comp time. Both are with supervisor approval.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and provide sensitivity training to prevent the exodus of students and frustrated employees from the Morehouse Parish School System.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive and update on the completion of the Magnet School damage to building housing Pre-K and a target date of their return.” (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***Dr. Stacey Pullen and Tony Roberts gave updates on repairs and everything tentatively will be complete by the 1st week of August.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive a list of all employees hired through Esser funding which has a 3 year span.” (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams), ***There was discussion and Mrs. Teresa Merritt will email Ms. Adrin Williams information she requested.***

The next item on the agenda was to “Discuss whether or not Morehouse Parish has a shortage of teachers at all schools.” (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the list was Public Comment: None for this meeting.

The next item on the agenda was Personnel

- a. Personnel Report (See Attachment)

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Karen Diel, President

Ms. Karen Diel, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent