

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on August 1, 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, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

Absent- Debbie Wilson

President Karen Diel called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mr. Robert Johnson.

The next item was a moment of silence for –

- Audrey L. Landers - 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, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. **Absent- Debbie Wilson**

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

The next item on the agenda was recognitions: None for this meeting

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent’s Announcements – ***Ms. Katie Henderson announced and presented Jalen Kennedy as the first to receive the Academic Scholarship in Honor of Donald Cephas, a former Morehouse Parish Bus Driver. The Scholarship is entitled, “C4K”, which stands for Cephas Four Kids,” in the amount of \$250.00.***

Blake on behalf of Pafford Ambulance service donated 105 clear backpacks to Morehouse Parish Schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on July 6, 2023. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. 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 Mr. Louis Melton to approve the monthly bus request, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. 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 Mr. Louis Melton to approve audit engagement for the 2022-2023 School Year with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, LLC., seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. 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 Mr. Rick Hixon to approve agreed upon Procedures Audit Engagement for 2022-2023 fiscal year with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram, LLC. , seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider changing September 26, 2023 Finance and Advisory Committee meeting to be combined with October 3, 2023 monthly board meeting. All board members will be attending the Annual LSBA Fall Trailblazers Conference. (Presented by Mrs. Karen Diel) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve changing September 26, 2023 Finance and Advisory Committee meeting to be combined with October 3, 2023 monthly board meeting. All board members will be attending the Annual LSBA Fall Trailblazers Conference, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To recommend that information requested by board members to be presented at the regular school board meeting be submitted to the superintendent. If possible he will provide this information either prior to the meeting or can be left at your station the night of the meeting. This is an effort to shorten the agenda, focus more on items requiring a vote, and to avoid holding guest for a lengthy amount of time.” (Presented by Ms. Karen Diel) ***This was discussion only. Ms. Adrin Williams asked for the minutes to reflect that she has concerns regarding this agenda item. Her constituents need to know updates on certain information.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt an amendment to policy D-14.2 Agenda Preparation and Dissemination as a “First Reading”. This would replace the current D-14.2 policy. ***There was discussion and the policy is actually B-14.2. On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to table this item until more information is provided and updated, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. 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 July 25, 2023. (Presented by Mr. Rick Hixon)

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Rick Hixon-Chairperson called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson and Adrin Williams. Also present were Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin, Mrs. Debbie Wilson, and David Gray, Superintendent.

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

1. To receive the Sales Tax Funds report for June 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for June 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 June 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for June 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.

3. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for June 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for June 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 June 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for June 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 receive the quarterly budget to actual comparisons on the funds below.
 - A. Sales Tax Funds
 - B. General Fund
 - C. School Lunch Fund
 - D. East Morehouse Tax Fund

On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the quarterly to actual comparisons on Sales Tax Funds, General Fund, School Lunch Fund and East Morehouse Tax Fund, 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.

6. To receive the Semi- annual budget to actual comparisons on all funds below.
 - A. Sales Tax Funds
 - B. General Fund
 - C. School Lunch Fund
 - D. East Morehouse Tax Fund
 - E. Special Revenue Funds

On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Semi-annual budget to actual comparisons on Sales Tax Funds, General Fund, School Lunch Fund, East Morehouse Tax Fund and Special Revenue Funds, 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.

7. To receive an update on the 2023-2024 Initial MFP Allocation. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *This was report only.*
8. 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. Louis to approve the proposal from Risk Services o Louisiana, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year, 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.

On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the student catastrophic accident proposal from Risk Services of Louisiana, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

The next item on the agenda was to grant the superintendent the authority to advertise for bid the purchase of 3 buses of through ESSER III Funding. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton, to grant the superintendent the authority to advertise for bid the purchase of 3 buses of through ESSER III Funding, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt an addition to Carpool And Bus Line Safety, policy E-1.2f-1 as a “**First Reading**”. (**Attachment is in your board packets**) (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt an addition to Carpool And Bus Line Safety, policy E-1.2f-1 as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt an addition to School And Student Safety, policy E-1.2.1 as a “**First Reading**”. (**Attachment is in your board packets**) (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt an addition to School And Student Safety, policy E-1.2.1 as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt an addition to Continuous Learning, policy G-2.2.1 as a “**First Reading**”. (**Attachment is in your board packets**) (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt an addition to Continuous Learning, policy G-2.2.1 as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt an amendment to Attendance, policy H-2 as a “**First Reading**”. This would replace the current H-2. (**Attachment is in your board packets**) (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt an amendment to Attendance, policy H-2 as a “First Reading”. This would replace the current H-2, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

To receive and adopt an amendment to Student Absences And Excuses, policy H-2.1 as a **“First Reading”**. This would replace the current H-2.1 policy. (**Attachment is in your board packets**) (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt an amendment to Student Absences And Excuses, policy H-2.1 as a “First Reading”. This would replace the current H-2.1 policy, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

To receive and adopt an amendment to Corporal Punishment, policy H-3.6A as a **“First Reading”**. This replaces policy H-3.6A and requires a written consent for the use of corporal punishment by the student’s parent or legal guardian. (**Attachment is in your board packets**) (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt an amendment to Corporal Punishment, policy H-3.6A as a “First Reading”. This replaces policy H-3.6A and requires a written consent for the use of corporal punishment by the student’s parent or legal guardian, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

To receive and adopt an amendment to Administration Of Medicine, policy H-3.7C as a **First Reading”**. This replaces policy H-3.7C. (**Attachment is in your board packets**) (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to receive and adopt an amendment to Administration Of Medicine, policy H-3.7C as a First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was “To grant the superintendent the authority to obtain a new appraisal for Cherry Ridge Elementary School.” (Presented by Mrs. Debbie Wilson). *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to table this item until the next board meeting, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action concerning the cyber security plan and identifying the guardrails in place for the students and staff or employees in the Morehouse Parish school system.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton, Presented by the AI technician and anyone else involved in preparing schools for the ever-evolving landscape of cyber threats.) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action concerning the positive effects of Artificial Intelligence, while decreasing and eliminating the negative threats and effects of Artificial Intelligence.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton and Presented by MPSB Artificial Intelligence technician or coordinator) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and receive a report on the school performance scores from 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 showing the area(s) of increase and decrease in the core subject areas for grade level 3rd-12th. (Leap, ILeap, and EOC)” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton, Presented by Test Coordinator and Principals) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action to make sure each school or work station of the Morehouse Parish School Board have been properly trained concerning an active threat and know the proper response.” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To present the 2023-2024 Morehouse Parish “strategic plan” designed to show the procedures that will be used to: improve the academic performance of our students, employ

and retain certified personnel, and enhance parental and community involvement.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take necessary actions regarding states stipend for teachers, support workers etc. to receive the entire amount at one time.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***There was discussion and guidance from the state was presented by Ms. Ersula Downs.***

The next item on the agenda was “To get an update from each school on all projects finals unfinished and targeted completion date” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***Mr. Tony Roberts gave updates on the MPR building at Morehouse Magnet School should be finished by Friday, August 4th. Delta Elementary around September 15th some of the restrooms should be finished. Thirty days afterwards Morehouse Elementary will be finished and the second project will start.***

The next item on the agenda was “To get an update on any Covid funding that maybe available and if so the deadline for its use.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was discussion by Mr. Jesse Winston and Ms. Ersula Downs.***

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment: Parent Alicia Boykin wants to discuss getting Joshua Lester enrolled in school during expulsion. (Limit 3-5 minutes) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to accept/ approve Joshua Lester to be enrolled in Morehouse Parish School District during expulsion for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

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

