

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Louis Melton – President, Robert Johnson - Vice President, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent.

Absent- Karen Diel and Rick Hixon

President Louis Melton called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr.

Mr. Louis Melton led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call to Establish a Quorum: Present - Louis Melton, Robert Johnson, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin. and Adrin Williams

Absent- Karen Diel and Rick Hixon

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the agenda. *On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to make an amendment to the agenda changing item 18 to 20, and 20 to 18. Item 20 will become item 16a. Adding item 6a To declare an emergency to repair the MES Library and accept the quote from Serve-Pro, and to authorize the superintendent to accept the lowest quote to remove flooring material. Adding item 6b To authorize the superintendent to advertise for bids to repair the MES library, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.*

On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was recognitions:

- Employee of the month – MPSD Long-Term-Substitutes, *Delta Elementary- Paulette Jackson, Morehouse Elementary-Precious Edwards, Morehouse Magnet- Alice Davenport and Bastrop High- Roy Armstrong. Each employee was recognized and received a certificate for their dedication.*
- To recognize Bastrop High School girls basketball team. Bastrop High school lady rams were recognized on their outstanding season. *Lady Rams! Antanasia Armstrong #44, Johnique Bradley #24, Mariah Heard #23, Kierra McCoy #5, Jameiah People's #25, Zykierra Broadway #14, Paul-Lyrica James #34, Alana Myles #20, Mechelle Simms #10, Kaleah Wilson #12, Patraniya Archie #11, Jakerea Minnieweather #32, Ky'ren Bass #30, Samiran Carter #22, BHS Head Coach, Kevin Thomas, BHS Asst. Coach Dana Robinson, & Asst. Coach Kathy Moses. The players and coaches received certificates and water bottles.*
- To recognize Jesse Winston, Jr. – National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators. *Jesse Winston, Jr. was recognized at the National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators in Washington D.C. and a certificate was presented to Jesse Winston, Jr. Jesse Winston, Jr. announced he received a press release today announcing, that he was elected as the President of the National Association of Federal Education Programs.*
- To recognize Veronica Tappin – 2024 Louisiana School Board Association board of directors for District 4. *Mrs. Veronica Tappin was recognized as the 2024*

Louisiana School Board Association board of directors for District 4. A certificate was presented to Mrs. Veronica Tappin.

The next item on the agenda was 6a ***To declare an emergency to repair the MES Library and accept the quote from Serve-Pro, and to authorize the superintendent to accept the lowest quote to remove flooring material. On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to declare an emergency to repair the MES Library and accept the quote from Serve-Pro, and to authorize the superintendent to accept the lowest quote to remove flooring material, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams***

The next item on the agenda was 6b ***To authorize the superintendent to advertise for bids to repair the MES library. On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to authorize the superintendent to advertise for bids to repair the MES library, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent's Announcements –

- ***Mr. Lyn Kenley- Gave updates on the ESSER III and Running Track projects for the district. Projects continue on schedule, and the expected completion is May 3, 2024. Raised walkways are complete, and the original scope of walkway canopies are complete. Additional covers at Morehouse Magnet are being priced. These covers are for bus pickup and drop off area at the new modular buildings. Updates were given on the running track shot-put circle. Installation of the pad and toe board is complete. The remaining item of painting the foul line circle is to be completed soon. Shot-put sector fan under review, this is not ESSER funded. Hellas has requested that the location be marked by coaching staff. The install is to be scheduled soon.***

Restroom renovations at Bastrop High School two remaining restrooms are in progress. Morehouse Elementary School remaining restrooms renovations is in progress. Morehouse Magnet School remaining two restroom renovations are complete.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from The Regular School Board Meeting held on March 5, 2024 at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the minutes from The Regular School Board Meeting held on March 5, 2024 at 5:30 pm, 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 Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Ms. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of monthly Bus Requests- ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the monthly bus request, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Sales Tax Funds report for February 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for February 2024, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the General Fund report for February 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the General Fund report for February 2024, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the School Lunch Fund report for February 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the School Lunch Fund report for February 2024 with the amended year to date amount, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for February 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for February 2024, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the ESSER Funds report for February 2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the ESSER Funds report for February 2024, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (March 2024). (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport). **This was presentation only.**

The next item on the agenda was to terminate all ESSER positions effective June 30, 2024, in accordance with uniform grant guidance. (Requested and Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr.) This was information only.

The next item on the agenda was to include the principal of the Alternative program with the Elementary principals to be changed to 12 month employees. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to include the principal of the Alternative program with the Elementary principals to be changed to 12 month employees, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson.***

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel- Absent

Louis Melton-Yes

Robert Johnson- Yes

Rick Hixon- Absent

Debbie Wilson- Yes

Veronica Tappin- Yes

Adrin Williams- No

The motion passed

The next item on the agenda was to Propose to retain the Coordinator for Employee Onboarding, Induction, & Credential Services position. (Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt, Personnel Director) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to Propose to retain the Coordinator for Employee Onboarding, Induction, & Credential Services position, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson.***

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel- Absent

Louis Melton-No

Robert Johnson- Yes

Rick Hixon- Absent

Debbie Wilson- Yes

Veronica Tappin- No

Adrin Williams- No

The motion did not pass

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid of Hobson and Son to tear down and move debris from the Old Collinston Gym site. (Presented by Mr. Tony Roberts) On a motion of Ms. Adrin Williams to table the item until May board meeting when more information is provided, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. *None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to grant the superintendent the authority to advertise for the lease of land for a wind lease and servitude agreement for Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 9 East containing approximately 638.47 acres, more or less. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to grant the superintendent the authority to advertise for the lease of land for a wind lease and servitude agreement for Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 9 East containing approximately 638.47 acres, more or less, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the implementation of the stipends from East Morehouse District Funds for coaches and sponsors voted at the March 5, 2024 meeting, the effective dates thereof, the eligibility for stipends, Fair Labor Act issues and take necessary action in regard to thereto. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt Forethought's revisions to sections D and E of the policy manual to replace all former sections D and E of the policy manual except section D-12 which will be included in section J and to replace sections A-10.1 and A-10.2 of the policy manual and to add a new section F of the policy manual (which does not replace the current section F of the policy manual) as a **"First Reading."** (Attachments are provided in your packets) (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt Forethought's revisions to sections D and E of the policy manual to replace all former sections D and E of the policy manual except section D-12 which will be included in section J and to replace sections A-10.1 and A-10.2 of the policy manual and to add a new section F of the policy manual (which does not replace the current section F of the policy manual) as a "First Reading", seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Student and Teacher Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use as a new Policy, H-31, as a **"First Reading"**. (Attachments are provided in your packets) (Presented by Mr. Jesse Winston, Jr. and Ms. Katie Henderson) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt the Student and Teacher Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use as a new Policy, H-31, as a "First Reading", seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to amend section III.B.2. under Mandatory Suspensions to include vape as a mandatory suspension, as a **“First Reading”**. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) There was public comment from Sammie Crawford president of a mentor boxing program in Monroe. He wanted to partner with Morehouse Parish to help children in the community. *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to amend section III.B.2. under Mandatory Suspensions to include vape as a mandatory suspension, as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to amend policy H-3.5, section 6. To add “cros” as unacceptable footwear, as a **“First Reading”**. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to amend policy H-3.5, section 6. To add “cros” as unacceptable footwear, as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson.*

Roll Call Vote:

Karen Diel- Absent

Louis Melton-Yes

Robert Johnson- Yes

Rick Hixon- Absent

Debbie Wilson- Yes

Veronica Tappin- No

Adrin Williams- No

The motion did pass

The next item on the agenda was to amend the fighting policy as set forth in the attached correspondence, as a **“First Reading”**. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to amend the fighting policy as set forth in the attached correspondence, as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda approve purchase of lawn mowers on state contract for the following locations:

- a. Morehouse Elementary School
 - b. Morehouse Student Services Center
- (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve purchase of lawn mowers on state contract for the following locations:

- a. *Morehouse Elementary School*
- b. *Morehouse Student Services Center*

Seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to advertise for bids on roof replacements at the following locations:

- a. Morehouse Magnet School MPS
- b. Bastrop High School
 - i. ROTC building
 - ii. Building 96A
 - iii. Boys Old Gym
 - iv. Girls Old Gym
- e. Delta Elementary Band Room-Auditorium

- d. Morehouse Student Services Center
 - e. Foundation repairs for Bastrop High School 300 Building
 - f. Foundation repairs for Morehouse Elementary School Science Wing
 - g. Foundation repairs for Morehouse Magnet School – room near front entrance.
- (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs)

On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to advertise for bids on roof replacements at the following locations:

- a. ***Morehouse Magnet School MPS***
- b. ***Bastrop High School***
 - v. ***ROTC building***
 - vi. ***Building 96A***
 - vii. ***Boys Old Gym***
 - viii. ***Girls Old Gym***
- c. ***Delta Elementary ~~Band Room~~ Auditorium***
- d. ***Morehouse Student Services Center***
- e. ***Foundation repairs for Bastrop High School 300 Building***
- f. ***Foundation repairs for Morehouse Elementary School Science Wing***
- g. ***Foundation repairs for Morehouse Magnet School – room near front entrance.***

Seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take the appropriate action to allow chaplains in the Morehouse Parish public schools.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the appropriate action to have the suicide prevention hotline number on the back of id cards or inside student handbooks.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, and Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “To use money from solar taxes to install panels in Bastrop High school’s gym BEFORE Awards Day and graduation 2024.” (Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only. Mrs. Taylor will reach out for a new quote and bring back to the board.***

The next item on the agenda was “To provide a suitable working sound system for Bastrop High School System. (Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin.) ***This was discussion only. Mrs. Taylor will reach out for a new quote and bring back to the board for the stadium.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive an update from the transportation department on the new buses, when are they expected to arrive, how many in the beginning and how many to follow.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***Public comment was given by Mark Moore expressing concerns for transportation for students in extracurricular activities for the Bonita, Collinston, Oak Ridge and Mer Rouge areas. If transportation is provided for them after school with extracurricular activities, more student would participate. Mr. Davenport gave updates on the electric buses, at this time the ADA is moving slowly.***

The next item on the agenda was “To receive and discuss the Morehouse Parish Strategic Planning and where we are now.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***Ms. Adrin Williams will add this for the next committee meeting.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take the necessary action to approve the LSBA resolution opposing state legislation establishing ESA's (Educational Savings Accounts) including Senate Bill 313 and House Bill 745 that provide public school dollars for private tuition. (Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin.) ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the LSBA resolution opposing state legislation establishing ESA's (Educational Savings Accounts) including Senate Bill 313 and House Bill 745 that provide public school dollars for private tuition, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was The Morehouse Parish School Board also urges its elected representative to go on record opposing said bills and to encourage its citizens to express their concerns. (Requested by Mr. David Gray and Mrs. Veronica Tappin) (Presented by Mr. David Gray and Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was "To discuss and take the necessary actions for the superintendent to give the official date of retirement, so the board can take the necessary actions." (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only. Mr. Katz will will at the statutes and provide information.***

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment: ***Appeal of the minor child, K.R., from a hearing conducted by Ralph Davenport. (The student will have the choice of conducting the hearing in open meeting or in executive session). No one was present, and on motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to table this item until further notice, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed.***

The next item on the agenda was Personnel :

- a. Personnel Report (See Attachment)

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Louis Melton, President

Mr. Louis Melton, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent