

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on Thursday, January 11, 2024, 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 –

- Ruth Johnson- Retired Bus Driver

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 election of President of Morehouse Parish School Board. Nominations were taken for Morehouse Parish School Board President. Mr. Rick Hixon nominated Mr. Louis Melton for President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2024, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. ~~Mr. Rick Hixon motioned for the nominations to be closed.~~ (Correction made by Mrs. Tappin at the February 6, 2024 board meeting. It should read, **Mrs. Veronica Tappin motioned for the nominations to be closed.**)

Roll call vote:

Karen Diel- Yes
Louis Melton – Yes
Robert Johnson – Yes
Rick Hixon – Yes
Debbie Wilson – Yes
Veronica Loche-Tappin – Yes
Adrin Williams - Yes

Mr. Louis Melton was elected President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2024 year. At this time, Mr. Louis Melton took control of the Board meeting as Board President.

The next item on the agenda was the election of Vice-President of Morehouse Parish School Board. Mrs. Veronica Tappin nominated Mr. Robert Johnson for Vice-President of Morehouse Parish School Board 2024, seconded by Ms. Adrin Williams. Mr. Rick Hixon motioned for the nominations to be closed.

Roll call vote:

Karen Diel- Yes
Louis Melton – Yes
Robert Johnson – Yes
Rick Hixon – Yes
Debbie Wilson – Yes
Veronica Loche-Tappin – Yes
Adrin Williams - Yes

Mr. Robert Johnson was elected Vice-President of Morehouse Parish School Board for 2024 year.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the agenda. *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon 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** – Morehouse Elementary School Custodian–Spencer Montgomery was recognized and presented with a plaque and gift card.
- **New Teachers of the year-**
 - ◆ **Elementary School**, Delta Elementary-Tara Harris, Morehouse Elementary- Kim Reynolds, Morehouse Magnet- Rebekah Breaux.
 - ◆ **Middle School**, Bastrop High-Moneeka Henderson.
 - ◆ **High School**, Bastrop High- Marjorie Bethea.Morehouse Parish Schools Overall New Teacher of the year- Tara Harris was recognized and presented with a plaque.
- **Students of the year- 5th Grade-** Morehouse Magnet- Addilee Garth Morehouse Elementary- Kolson Bershell, Beekman Charter- Markell Edmonds, and Delta Elementary-Kebba Tyler.
5th Grade student of the year- Kebba Tyler and Beekman Charter 5th Grade student of the year Markell Edmonds.

Students of the Year 8th Grade - Morehouse Magnet- Journey Moore, Bastrop High-Malayiah Carter, Beekman Charter- Mirabella Acosta

8th Grade student of the year- Bastrop High -Malayiah Carter and Beekman Charter Mirabella Acosta

Students of the Year 12th Grade- Bastrop High-Tierany Frazier, Morehouse Magnet- Cardell Moore, Beekman Charter- Baylee Hunt.

12th Grade student of the year- Bastrop High-Tierany Frazier and Beekman Charter- Baylee Hunt.

- **Recognition of the outgoing School Board President-** Karen Diel was recognized and presented with a plaque for her faithful year of service.
- **2023 Louisiana School Board Association Certified School Board Members-** Veronica Tappin and Louis Melton were recognized for going above and beyond the required training hours for board members. Certificates from the Louisiana School Board Association were presented to them.

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent’s Announcements – Morehouse Parish School Board Proclamation Resolution January 2024. Superintendent David Gray read the Morehouse Parish School Board Proclamation Resolution January 2024 for all board members. Next, Superintendent David Gray recognized all board members for their hard work and service for Morehouse Parish School District. Plaques were presented to each board member. Next, Superintendent Gray read the School Board Member Training Resolution and presented each board member with a certificate of completion from the Louisiana School Board Association.

- Mr. Ralph Davenport gave updates on electric buses for Region 6. Five districts are in the grant. The entire project consist of 97 buses. Morehouse Parish will receive around 30 electric buses. A project manager will be assigned for assistance and guidance during this process.
- Mr. Lyn Kenley- Gave updates on the ESSER III and Running Track projects for the district. Restroom renovations are back on schedule. Modular classrooms' raised walkways are nearly complete, and walkway canopies should be installed within 2 weeks. Updates were given on the running track take-off boards and the shot-put circle.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from The Regular School Board Meeting held on December 5, 2023 at 5:30 pm. ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the minutes from The Regular School Board Meeting held on December 5, 2023 at 5:30 pm, 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 Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the monthly Travel Requests, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 receive the Sales Tax Funds report for November 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for November 2023, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the General Fund report for November 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the General Fund report for November 2023, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the School Lunch Fund report for November 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Robert Johnson to approve the School Lunch Fund report for November 2023, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for November 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mrs. Veronica Tappin to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for November 2023, 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 November 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the ESSER Funds report for November 2023, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to consider and take necessary action to enter into agreement for accounting consulting services with Woodard & Associates for the year ending 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Robert Johnson to approve taking necessary action to enter into agreement for accounting consulting services with Woodard & Associates for the year***

ending 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to receive the Discipline Report (December 2023). (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *This was presentation only.*

The next item on the agenda was to request permission to trade a 2020 school bus with lift for a 73-passenger bus without a lift, even trade with Ross Bus Sales. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion by Mr. Rick Hixon to grant permission to trade a 2020 school bus with lift for a 73-passenger bus without a lift, even trade with Ross Bus Sales, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid of \$8667.00 per year from Dylan Kelly for the Lease of land for hunting purposes in Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 4 East, containing approximately 642 acres, (just above the “Beanfield” in northwest area of the parish) for five years. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to accept the bid of \$8667.00 from Dylan Kelly for the Lease of land for hunting purposes in Section 16, Township 23 North, Range 4 East, containing approximately 642 acres, (just above the “Beanfield” in northwest area of the parish) for five years, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to accept the bid of \$6,510.00 per year from Paul Kevin Morgan, Kevmco, LLC for the Lease of land for farming/agricultural purposed in Section 38, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, which is utilized currently as agricultural property, approximately 35 acres, more or less, lying East of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad track, sometimes known as the Delta School Farm, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to accept the bid of \$6,510.00 from Paul Kevin Morgan, Kevmco, LLC for the Lease of land for farming/agricultural purposed in Section 38, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, which is utilized currently as agricultural property, approximately 35 acres, more or less, lying East of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad track, sometimes known as the Delta School Farm, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, all voted in favor except Mr. Louis Melton opposed, the motion passed.*

The next item on the agenda was to give updates on the sale of Cherry Ridge Elementary School at the appraised value of \$40,000.00 and consider re-advertising it for sale at 85% (\$34,000.00) of the appraised value. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *There were no bidders at the 100%. On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to re-advertise the sale of Cherry Ridge Elementary at 85% (\$34,000.00) of the appraised value, seconded by Ms. Karen Diel. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the LSBA Code of Conduct for Louisiana School Board Members as a policy as a “First Reading” and request a policy number from Forethought. (Presented by Mr. David Gray) *Mr. Gray read the LSBA Code of Conduct for Louisiana School Board Members. On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tapping to adopt the LSBA Code of Conduct for Louisiana School Board Members as a policy as a “First Reading” and request a policy number from Forethought, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt revised policy CG as Administrative Records as a “**First Reading**”. (Attachment is in your Board packet – adds the underlined phrase on page 3). (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tapping to adopt revised policy CG as Administrative*

Records as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to adopt policy DFG as Donations And Gifts – as a **“First Reading.”** (Attachment is in your Board packet – conforms with Act 346). (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tapping to adopt policy DFG as Donations And Gifts – as a “First Reading, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt policy EBBH as Use Of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) And Cardiac Emergency Plan as a **“First Reading.”** (Attachment is in your Board packet – conforms with Act 234). (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tapping to adopt policy EBBH as Use Of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) And Cardiac Emergency Plan as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt revised policy IHAD as Parent Conferences as a **“First Reading.”** (Attachment is in your Board packet – policy combines various parent conferences into one policy.) (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tapping to adopt revised policy IHAD as Parent Conferences as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to amend Morehouse Parish Wellness policy, F-22 by adding additional requirement on page 127F. to section 4.C.3. for K-5 students as a **“First Reading”**. (Attachment is in your Board packet – complies with Act 219 to provide recess for students K-5.) (Presented by Mr. Steve Katz) ***On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tapping to amend Morehouse Parish Wellness policy, F-22 by adding additional requirement on page 127F. to section 4.C.3. for K-5 students as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment: **Juanetta Martin wants to discuss a student suspension (Limit 3-5 minutes) This was discussion only.**

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