

The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on March 14, 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.

A moment of silence for - Ethelene Winston- Retired Bus Driver and Lucille Jones- Retired Cafeteria Worker

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 approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was recognitions:

- Employee of the month, Morehouse Student Services Center, Amanda Lee received a plaque.
- LSBA 2022-2023 LSBA Artwork – Tabari Jackson was recognized and received a plaque, along gift cards from Alyssa Care Ministries and 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Recognition for renewal of National Board Teacher Certification  
**Teri Carson**, *Coordinator - Personnel Department. Mrs. Carson received a plaque.*
- **Maria Theresa Emfinger** - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Director and Testing & Accountability Coordinator.  
*Mrs. Emfinger received a plaque.*
- Recognition for achieving SHRM-CP credential Society for Human Resource Management - Certified Professional **Teresa Merritt**, *Personnel Director. Mrs. Merritt received a plaque presented by ULM Instructor, Josh Tolleson.*

The next item on the agenda was Superintendent’s Announcements – ***Met with a group of members from the community regarding the upcoming Tax election. Information was given why this is not a renewal, but this is a millage. A lot of good questions were asked and input was given. We just attended the Louisiana School Board Association Annual Convention, a lot of information was obtained. Some wise words stood out from a well-known author, We Take All***

***Blueberries. This really hit home, because it fits public schools. Mr. Gray suggested to read this book.***

The next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes - Regular School Board Meeting held on February 7, 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 Mr. Louis Melton to approve the monthly Bus Requests, seconded by Mr. Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

To receive the report from the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on February 28, 2023.

The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 5:30 pm. **Rick Hixon-Chairperson** called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following: **Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Debbie Wilson and Adrin Williams.** Also present were **Mrs. Veronica Loche-Tappin, David Gray, Superintendent, and Stephen Katz, Attorney.**

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

1. To present information from NativState on Carbon Capture. (Presented by Mr. Mark Brown) Information was presented to the committee. ***On a motion by Ms. Karen Diel to make a recommendation to the full board to enter into a Carbon Agreement and Order for payment with NativeState, LLC, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. 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 Sales Tax Funds report for January 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mrs. Debbie Wilson to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for January 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 General Fund report for January 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for January 2023, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 School Lunch Fund report for January 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for January 2023, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 East Morehouse Tax Fund report for January 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for January 2023, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.*** Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

The next item on the agenda was to extend Morehouse Community Medical Centers, INC, School Based Health Center Agreement (Term of ten (10) years commencing May 1, 2023 and terminating April 30, 2033. (Presented by Ms. Stephanie Harris). ***On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to extend Morehouse Community Medical Centers, INC, School Based Health Center Agreement (Term of ten (10) years commencing May 1, 2023 and terminating April 30, 2033, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed, the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was “To meet Edward Lanier, Jr., owner/director of Total Wellness, Inc., to the community.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Mr. Rick Hixon) (Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and Mr. Rick Hixon) ***This was presentation only.***

The next item on the agenda was to announce the Committee chairperson and members for the 2023 Finance and Advisory Committee. (Presented by Ms. Karen Diel) Mr. Rick Hixon-Chairperson, Karen Diel, Louis Melton, Robert Johnson, and Adrin Williams.

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt changes to the School Bus Loading and Unloading of Students Policy E-13 to comply with La. R.S. 17:158(J) as a “**First Reading**”. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport). ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt changes to the School Bus Loading and Unloading of Students Policy E-13 to comply with La. R.S. 17:158(J) as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Robert Johnson, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to receive and adopt the expanded policy D-12 name to School Fund –Raising Activities and Sales to Students page 25.D as a “**First Reading**”. (Presented by Mrs. Teresa Merritt) ***On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt the expanded policy D-12 name to School Fund –Raising Activities and Sales to Students page 25.D as a “First Reading”, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to discuss updates to cafeterias and updates to kitchen service. (Presented by Ms. Ashley White) ***This will be presented at the April monthly board meeting.***

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

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and recommend approval of the revised Morehouse Parish School Board Sexual Harassment Policy, policy F-9.31 together with its attached Title IX Grievance Procedures for Student Reports of Complaints of Sexual Harassment and related forms **“Second Reading”** (Presented by Dr. Dana Boockoff). ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the revised Morehouse Parish School Board Sexual Harassment Policy, policy F-9.31 together with its attached Title IX Grievance Procedures for Student Reports of Complaints of Sexual Harassment and related forms “Second Reading”, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon, none opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to “To discuss and take the necessary action to change the wording of the suspension and expulsion letters given to students.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin, Presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) ***This was discussion and Mr. Steve Katz will review forms presented by Mrs. Veronica Tappin and incorporate changes to the revised form.***

The next item on the agenda was “Update from the Transportation Department” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “Update on timber cutting for Transportation Department” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was previously discussed.***

The next item on the agenda was “Discuss in school suspension” (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the agenda was “How many AED life saving devices are at each school and where are they located at the school?” (Requested by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion and Mr. Melton will look into how many AED’s are at each school.***

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss the major purpose of the online credit for the bond issue.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) ***This was discussion only.***

The next item on the list was Public Comment: None submitted 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**