

The Morehouse Parish School Board met for a public hearing on September 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel - President, Louis Melton – Vice President, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

**Absent- Robert Johnson**

The hearing was call to order by President Karen Diel.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the adoption of the Morehouse Parish School Board 2022-2023 Revised School Year Consolidated Budget (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *This was presentation only.*

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the adoption of the Morehouse Parish School Board 2023-2024 School Year Consolidated Budget (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *This was presentation only.*

The next item on the agenda was to close the public hearing. The hearing was closed by President Karen Diel.

**The meeting was adjourned.**

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The Morehouse Parish School Board met in regular monthly session on September 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Morehouse Student Services Center, with the following members present Karen Diel - President, Louis Melton – Vice President, Rick Hixon, Debbie Wilson, Veronica Loche-Tappin and Adrin Williams. Also, present David Gray, Superintendent and Steve Katz, Attorney.

**Absent- Robert Johnson**

President Karen Diel called the meeting to order.

The next item on the agenda was the invocation led by Ms. Karen Diel.

The next item was a moment of silence for –

- Andrea Joy Tilbury Sanford - Retired Teacher

Ms. Karen Diel led the pledge of allegiance.

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

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the agenda. *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to amend the agenda with items 29&30 added, seconded by Ms. Debbie Wilson.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Karen Diel- Yes*

*Louis Melton- Yes*

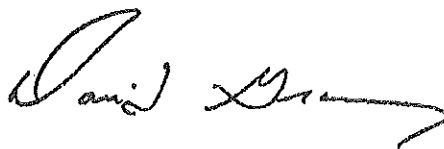
*Robert Johnson- Absent*

*Rick Hixon- Yes*

*Debbie Wilson- Yes*

*Veronica Tappin- Yes*

*Adrin Williams- Yes*



***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the amended agenda, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 – Mr. Gray spoke briefly on the wind project. Mr. Gray met with a company who would like to lease 1200 acres for windmills. The project is in a preliminary stage. They could install 5 windmills and the district would receive \$500,000 over a period of time.

Mr. Lyn Kenley gave updates on the ESSER projects.

- Bastrop High School restrooms are going well and the painting and fixtures will be next.
- Morehouse Elementary School restrooms are going well painting and plumbing fixtures are next.
- Morehouse Magnet School is a little behind on the bathroom updates.
- Delta Elementary School updates were given and there was a concern with the size of the toilets. They will inspect and get it taken care of.
- Modular classrooms are ahead of schedule with a date around September 20<sup>th</sup> for Delta Elementary School. Every two weeks afterward and all should be installed possibly by Thanksgiving Break.
- The logo is installed on Bastrop High School football field. The running track take off boards will be installed later in the year.
- Mr. Gray will check to see if each school has defibrillators.

The next item on the agenda was the Approval of Minutes – Regular School Board Meeting held on August 1, 2023 and Special Called Board Meeting on August 22, 2023. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. 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. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Morehouse Parish School Board 2022-2023 Revised School Year Consolidated Budget. (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs and Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the Morehouse Parish School Board 2022-2023 Revised School Year Consolidated Budget, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to adopt the Morehouse Parish School Board 2023-2024 School Year Consolidated Budget Resolution. (Requested by Ms. Ersula Downs and Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to adopt the Morehouse Parish School Board 2023-2024 School Year Consolidated Budget Resolution, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to present and take appropriate action on the Industrial Tax Exemption Application #20210112-ITE, \$4,083,461.00 for approval. (Presented by Kay King) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Industrial Tax Exemption Application #20210112-ITE, \$4,083,461.00, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to present and take appropriate action on the Industrial Tax Exemption Application #20210241-ITE, \$5,388,580.00 for approval. (Presented by Kay King) ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Industrial Tax Exemption Application #20210241-ITE, \$5,388,580.00, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed unanimously.***

The next item on the agenda was to present the LARMA renewal for the 2023-2024 year. (Presented by Mr. Robert Cowan with Alliant Insurance) Mr. John Caro made the presentation in Mr. Robert Cowan's absence. ***On a motion of Mr. Louis Melton to approve the LARMA renewal for the 2023-2024 year, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. 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 August 22, 2023. (Presented by Mr. Rick Hixon)

***The Finance and Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 5:35 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 July 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the Sales Tax Funds report for July 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.**
2. To receive the General Fund report for July 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the General Fund report for July 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.**
3. To receive the School Lunch Fund report for July 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) ***On a motion by Mr. Louis Melton to approve the School Lunch Fund report for July 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.**

4. To receive the East Morehouse Tax Fund report for July 2023. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *No report for this meeting.*
5. To present updated salary schedules for disbursement of the 2023-2024 Stipend for Teachers and Support workers. (Presented by Ms. Ersula Downs) *On a motion of Ms. Karen Diel to accept Salary Schedule Option #3, no one seconded the motion. The motion failed. On a motion of Mr. Robert Johnson to accept Salary Schedule Option #1, seconded by Mr. Louis Melton.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Rick Hixon- Yes*

*Karen Diel-Yes*

*Louis Melton-Yes*

*Robert Johnson-Yes*

*Adrin Williams-Yes*

***The motion passed.***

**Madam President, I so move, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.**

**The meeting was adjourned.**

The next item on the agenda was to adopt Forethought's revisions to sections A, B and C of the policy manual as a "**First Reading**" to replace all of the former sections A, B and C of the policy manual except sections A-10.1 and A-10.2, B-14.13, B-17, C-4, C-5, C-6.1 through C-6.10, 6.12 through C-6.14 which will be included on Forethought's section D, E,G and K of the revised policy manual when it is developed by Forethought. (Presented by Mr. Stephen Katz) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to adopt Forethought's revisions to sections A, B and C of the policy manual as a "First Reading" to replace all of the former sections A, B and C of the policy manual except sections A-10.1 and A-10.2, B-14.13, B-17, C-4, C-5, C-6.1 through C-6.10, 6.12 through C-6.14 which will be included on Forethought's section D, E,G and K of the revised policy manual when it is developed by Forethought, seconded by Mr. Rick Hixon. None opposed the motion passed.*

The next item on the agenda was to adopt policy E-14 Act. 301 Video/Audio Monitoring of School Board Property as a "**First Reading.**" (Attachment is in your board packets) (Presented by Mr. Stephen Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to adopt policy E-14 Act. 301 Video/Audio Monitoring of School Board Property as a "First Reading.", seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. Mr. Louis Melton opposed, the motion passed.*

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 "**Second Reading**". (Attachment is in your board packets) (Presented by Mr. Stephen Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to receive and adopt an addition to Carpool And Bus Line Safety, policy E-1.2f-1 as a "Second Reading", seconded by Mr. Louis Melton. 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 "**Second Reading**". (Attachment is in your board packets) (Presented by Mr. Stephen Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to receive and adopt an addition to addition to School And Student*

*Safety, policy E-1.2.1 as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.*

To receive and adopt an addition to Continuous Learning, policy G-2.2.1 as a **“Second Reading”**. **(Attachment is in your board packets)** (Presented by Mr. Stephen Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon receive and adopt an addition to Continuous Learning, policy G-2.2.1 as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.*

To receive and adopt an amendment to Attendance, policy H-2 as a **“Second Reading”**. This would replace the current H-2. **(Attachment is in your board packets)** (Presented by Mr. Stephen Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon receive and adopt an amendment to Attendance, policy H-2 as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.*

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

To receive and adopt an amendment to Corporal Punishment, policy H-3.6A as a **“Second 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. Stephen Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to receive and adopt an amendment to Corporal Punishment, policy H-3.6A as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.*

To receive and adopt an amendment to Administration Of Medicine, policy H-3.7C as a **“Second Reading”**. This replaces policy H-3.7C. **(Attachment is in your board packets)** (Presented by Mr. Stephen Katz) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to receive and adopt an amendment Administration Of Medicine, policy H-3.7C as a “Second Reading”, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.*

The next item on the agenda was to grant authority to advertise for bids for used tires. (Presented by Mr. Tony Roberts) *On a motion of Mr. Rick Hixon to grant authority to advertise for bids to sell used tires, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. None opposed the motion passed.*

The next item on the agenda was to grant authority to advertise/accept bids for 12 surplus buses. (Presented by Mr. Ralph Davenport) *On a motion of Mrs. Debbie Wilson to grant authority to advertise/accept bids for 12 surplus buses, seconded by Mrs. Veronica Tappin. None opposed the motion passed.*

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

The next item on the agenda was to receive updates from Child Nutrition on transportation and meal service. (Presented by Ms. Ashley White) *This was presentation only.*

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 grant the superintendent the authority to obtain a new appraisal for Cherry Ridge Elementary School, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson. Mr. Louis Melton opposed. The motion passed.*

The next item on the agenda was “To consider and take the necessary action to change the index for principals, assistant principals, instructional facilitators, dean of students, supervisors, secretaries, coordinators, IT technicians, business department personnel.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *On a motion of Mr. Melton to consider and take the necessary action to change the index for principals, assistant principals, instructional facilitators, dean of students, supervisors, secretaries, coordinators, IT technicians, business department personnel, no one seconded the motion. The motion failed.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary action regarding the stipend given by the State for teachers, support workers etc. to be issued in one lump sum.” (Presented by Ms. Adrin Williams) *This information was discussed earlier as item 5 of the Finance and Advisory committee report.*

The next item on the agenda was “To receive an update on Covid funding, the balance and what the remaining amount is allocated for.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To receive an update from all school principals regarding bathrooms, air conditioning and any other issues.” (Requested by Ms. Adrin Williams) *This was discussion only.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the necessary actions to give all certified staff and additional \$1,000 stipend and support staff additional \$750.” (Presented by Mr. Louis Melton) *Public comment was made by Mark Moore, he stated teachers should get a raise and asked if an agenda item could be created for teachers in Morehouse Parish School District. During discussion of this item, dates of disbursement were given as November 17, 2023 and March 22, 2024, for payment of one time stipends from Covid relief funds.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the appropriate action to identify which employees are eligible to use swap time and which are eligible to use comp time.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *This will be discussed at the next meeting.*

The next item on the agenda was “To discuss and take the appropriate action to have sound panels placed on the walls in the gymnasium at Bastrop High School.” (Requested by Mrs. Veronica Tappin) *On a motion of Mrs. Veronica Tappin to further research and get bids, seconded by Mrs. Debbie Wilson, It was decided that Mr. David Gray will research companies.*

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment: (1). Latetao Hutchinson, Executive Director of Morehouse Community Development wants to discuss a partnership. *Latetao Hutchinson was not present.* (2). Linda Mays Logan/Destiny Jackson, to discuss Summer school retention, Maldrea Jackson and First grade retention, Melody Jackson. (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 Ms. Karen Diel, President

Ms. Karen Diel, President

Mr. David Gray, Superintendent